

Khorramshahr port is captured by Iraq

The Iranians have lost the port at Khorramshahr and Iraqi tanks have taken up positions along the waterfront. But in the suburbs to the east of the city Iraqi troops met resistance from revolutionary guards. Tehran airport was hit by a low-level airstrike, coming in under the radar screen, and Ahvaz was shelled by Iraqi artillery.

Tehran airport hit by low-level strike

From Robert Fisk

Erbil, Oct 6
Khorramshahr port is now in Iraqi hands but the city centre and industrial suburbs to the east are still contested by Iraqi troops and Iranian revolutionary guards. The harbour is still in fairly good condition and Iraqi tanks are in position along the waterfront.

In the fighting of the last two weeks has however, left its scars inside Khorramshahr port where burnt out buildings and damaged ships are still the targets of occasional sniper fire. One Italian vessel caught fire during shelling. One of its crew described how he and his men had quenched the first three but had been forced to abandon ship when it was hit by a second shell.

Aircraft undetected by radar

The radio gave few details of damage to installations but well-informed sources reported heavy damage to a military aircraft repair and service area at the airport and a small petrochemical plant near by. They said about 40 people were injured at the complex alone—many of them critically. The aircraft came in low in their heavier strike on the Iranian capital since the war started, in order to avoid detection by an extensive radar network. Local people reported seeing some of the jets at roof-top level and two were said to be shot down.

It was the second time in as many days that Iraqi aircraft struck at the capital without being detected by radar. Anti-aircraft batteries ringing the city appeared to have gone into action only after the first attack and the air-raid alert came minutes later.—Reuter.

Ahavaz bombarded: At least 14 people were killed and 39 wounded today when Iraqi artillery shelled the town of Ahavaz in Khuzestan province. Paris news-agency reported in Tehran today. Two mosques and several houses in the town were hit.

According to the agency, seven enemy planes were brought down in different parts of the country: One in Khorramshahr, three near the Gulf port of Bushehr, two in Ilam province and one at sea. An air raid on Khorramshahr badly damaged the city hospital, Paris said.

About half of the Middle East's biggest oil refinery at Abadan has been destroyed by Iraqi bombardment, Dr Mostafa Chamran, head of Iranian forces in Khuzestan province, said in Ahavaz. The refinery would be out of operation for months, he said.—Agence France-Presse and Reuter.

Photograph and Raisa air raids, page 6

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EEC move on steel crisis

The European Commission has called on EEC member states to declare a state of "manifest crisis" in the steel industry. Such a declaration would enable emergency action to be taken, imposing compulsory production limits on manufacturers to shore up collapsing prices. EEC will support this action when EEC foreign ministers are asked for their assent tomorrow. The British Steel Corporation has long advocated such action, but West German producers are likely to oppose it.

Mr Steve Rankin, Midlands regional director of the Confederation of British Industry, has pointed out a strong downward trend in wage settlements throughout his area. More than 15,000 private sector workers have agreed pay rises of 10 per cent or less in the past two months. Some employers think 5 per cent would be a more realistic figure.

Pay settlements fall

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Mr Jackson reelected

Mr Tom Jackson, general secretary of the Union of Civil Service Workers, has unanimously re-elected chairman of the TUC's international committee. His re-election, our Labour Editor writes, shows that fears of a continuing left-wing purge of moderates in the TUC are groundless. Mr Jackson's nomination was moved by Mr Mostyn Evans, the TGWU leader.

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Sa Carneiro majority

Dr Francisco Sa Carneiro, the Portuguese Prime Minister, increased his majority in Parliament at the general election from three to 10 seats. The Stalinist Communist Party lost seven seats, acquiring only 40 of the 250 seats in the Assembly. The Socialists lost one seat.

Page 6

Wholesale price inflation falling

By David Blake

Economics Editor

Wholesale prices rose by only 0.4 per cent in September, confirming the sharp impact which the recession is having on the prices which companies charge for raw goods.

At the same time, the continuing strength of sterling has moderated the increased prices which manufacturers pay for their raw materials, pointing to a further easing of inflationary pressures. But sharp increases in nationalized industry prices over the next few months are likely to prevent the recent slowdown in wholesale prices being fully reflected in a slowdown in the rate of increase in the Retail Price Index, the most politically sensitive indicator of inflation.

The wholesale prices index, which measures prices at the factory gate, rose at an annual rate of 10.8 per cent over the six months to September, according to Department of Industry figures published yesterday. The increase in September, 14.8 per cent.

September saw the fifth consecutive fall in the annual rate of wholesale price inflation, taking it down to the lowest level seen since September 1979.

The main cause of the sharp drop in the wholesale inflation rate has been a combination of recession and high values for sterling, but there were some special factors at work in September. Petrol prices fell after the short-lived world glut which preceded the Iran-Iraq war, and there was a drop in cigarette prices.

The September figure also looks artificially good, because the figure for August has been revised upwards to take account of higher prices for Saudi Arabian oil which were backed up to August 1.

Other more fundamental reasons were at work in September as in most of the summer months. Recession has forced a number of industries to cut prices in a desperate effort to run down stocks. Steel prices charged by the British Steel Corporation were cut by 20 per cent in August, but much of the effect was not felt until September.

The impact of recession has

Continued on page 15, col 2

£100m EEC aid to uplift Belfast

The EEC announced last night it had earmarked £100m for development in Belfast. Mr Richard Burke, the commission's chief city councillor, told city councillors that the money was available over the next four or five years to improve housing and rundown areas, transport, and industry.

The cash, the biggest Community payment for Northern Ireland, will be over and above what Britain plans to spend in the province.

Mr Burke said he hoped the aid would not be channelled to the British Treasury and that Westminster would double the amount.

"The will now exists in the EEC to help Belfast in substantial and exceptional way," Mr Burke said.

The Government has drafted a £350m integrated plan for development in the inner Belfast area, but has yet to make a formal proposal for European aid.

Alderman John Carson, Lord Mayor of Belfast, said: "It is important that this money goes directly to Belfast. It is also important that pressure is applied on Westminster so that we can get it as quickly as possible."

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Photograph and Raisa air raids, page 6

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Hattie Jacques is found dead in bed

Hattie Jacques, the comedy actress who starred in more than twenty "Carry On" films, was found dead in her bed by her agent, who believed that she had suffered a heart attack. She was 56. For the past 20 years she and Eric Sykes had attracted huge television audiences with their brother and sister comedies.

Obituary, page 14

Mr Peter Cadbury fined

Mr Peter Cadbury, aged 62, of Westward Television, and his wife, Mrs Angela Jane Cadbury, aged 40, were each fined £200 at Barnstaple for wasting police time and ordered to share £1,000 in costs. The case concerned an anonymous allegation of local government corruption.

Page 4

Callaghan decision soon

Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition, is to tell his Shadow Cabinet colleagues next week what decision he has reached about stepping down from the leadership of the Labour Party. There is no indication whether he will retire at once or seek re-election.

Page 2

Laggers' dispute

Five pickets were fined after clashes with police outside two oil refineries in south-west Wales.

Independent schools: Establishments invited to join the Government's assisted places scheme include Winchester, St Paul's, and Manchester Grammar.

Children at risk: Cutbacks could lead to increased suffering and even deaths, the NSPCC said at the launching of a big fund-raising campaign.

Paris: Police unions questioned about neo-Nazi

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Moscow: Soviet Union determined to curb human rights arguments in Madrid

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HOME NEWS

Vote for Mr Jackson allays fears of left-wing TUC purge

By Paul Routledge

Fears of a continuing left-wing "purge" of moderates at the top level of the TUC proved groundless yesterday when Mr Tony Jackson, general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, retained his chairmanship of the key international committee.

Mr Jackson, who asked "who next?" after his fellow moderates, Mr Frank Chapple, the electricians' leader, was removed from the TUC's "inner cabinet" and Mr Sidney Weightman, of the National Union of Railwaysmen lost the chairmanship of the transport industries committee, was unanimously reelected by his colleagues.

His nomination was moved by Mr Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, who was widely held to have been the originator of a campaign against TUC General Council moderates holding high office.

The only possible controversial important chairmanship still to be decided is that of the employment policy and

organization committee, which deals at first hand with Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, on matters of labour law and industrial practice.

The committee meets tomorrow to choose a successor to Mr Harry Urwin, former general secretary of the TGWU, who has retired.

Favourites for this important office are Mr William Keyes, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, and Mr Kenneth Gill, leader of Tass, the white-collar section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Mr Keyes is seen as left of centre and the more likely to win. Mr Gill is the senior Communist on the general council. Mr Kenneth Baker, a national industrial officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, has also been mentioned as a possible moderate contender.

The TUC economic committee is expected to confirm Mr David Bassett, general secretary of the GMWU, as its chairman at a meeting tomorrow.

Laggers dispute gets worse as 5 are fined

From Tim Jones

Cardiff

The laggers dispute at two oil refineries in south-west Wales intensified yesterday when police clashed with pickets who were attempting to block the main gates of one of the sites. Five pickets were arrested as more than 200 policemen struggled to prevent 500 men from barring the entrance to the Texaco site at Pembroke Dock.

Later four of the pickets were fined £50 for threatening behaviour and the fifth was fined £25 for obstruction.

Seven coaches from Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, and Swansea had ferried the pickets, who are demanding the right to be employed as thermal insulation engineers on the £250m project.

According to their union, the General and Municipal Workers, the men are being prevented from undertaking their traditional work on the site because of the opposition of six other unions. They include the electricians' union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW), which face suspension from the TUC for preventing General and Municipal Workers' Union (GMWU) members from doing similar work at the strike-torn Isle of Grain complex in Kent.

Last night Mr Tal King, an

AUEW construction section area official, defended the refusal of the unions to allow the GMWU men on the site.

Mr King, secretary for the joint unions committee, said: "There is no reason for any other union on site. It is up to the laggers to join the relevant union."

But Mr Glyn Probert, the GMWU district secretary, said: "My members are getting extremely bitter and I fear this dispute can only escalate unless a solution is found."

Peaks move: The TUC said last night that it was looking for a letter from Mr John Baldwin, general secretary of the AUEW, confirming a meeting between all the unions involved in the Isle of Grain dispute (our Labour Staff writes).

Mr Baldwin hopes his move may avert the threatened suspension from the TUC of three unions, including his own.

Mr Baldwin's union has made clear that it will not countenance the removal of the site of the 57 substitute laggers until they have finished with the unit they are lagging. But the union is understood to believe that room for a settlement may still be found in its willingness to allow GMWU laggers to be restored to the site to work on the next unit.

Prison action disrupts contract jobs

By Nicholas Timmins

The first day of industrial action by prison officers in England and Wales yesterday over their demand for arbitration in a pay dispute led to appreciable disruption in prisons and a 15-minute sit-down protest by 100 prisoners at Staffort.

Prison laundries stopped taking contract cleaning for the Ministry of Defence and some hospitals, some prisoners arrived late for court, and outside building contractors were refused admission to at least sixteen prisons, the Home Office said. Building work stopped completely at Brixton, South London, Northgate, in Bexhill, Sussex, and in Dover and Albany.

The Prison Officers' Association, with 20,000 members, claimed full support for the action, the first step in a protest that may widen if the Home Office refuses to put a dispute over anomalies in pay for meat hooks to arbitration.

Mr David Evans, the assistant general secretary of the association, said prison officers were refusing outside laundry contracts, refusing to supervise outside contractors' work, and only drawing keys at the start of shifts.

Women warned on contraceptive

The makers of the Dalton shield, interuterine contraceptive yesterday advised women to stop using it even if they have no adverse symptoms.

In a letter to Britain's 77,000 doctors, the A. H. Robbins company, of Horsham, West Sussex, said long-term use of the shield might carry an increased risk of pelvic infection.

Diary, page 12

Mr William Rees-Davies, QC, Conservative MP for Thanet, West, who has been suspended from practising at the Bar for six months because of professional misconduct. The suspension takes effect from October 2 and he is not appealing against the finding and sentence (our Legal Correspondent writes). A disciplinary tribunal of the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar, the barristers' governing body, found two charges against him proved. Both related to a case at the Central Criminal Court in London last year in which Mr Rees-Davies appeared for the defence. The first charge stated that he had made a statement to Judge Neil McKinnon, which was untrue, in that he said he had made arrangements with everyone in the case which would allow him to be absent for part of a day if he obtained the judge's leave. The other charge was that Mr Rees-Davies absented himself from the hearing without the consent of his client.

Diary, page 12

The Government is offering financial assistance only for tuition fees and for the least well-off families, for school meals, uniforms and travel. However, some boarding schools, including Winchester, are offering to pay the boarding fees of those assisted-places pupils who are accepted for an assisted place at Winchester.

The Government released yesterday the names of 218 independent schools in England that have been invited to join the assisted places scheme. 291 applied to join. The number of places to be offered by each school has yet to be agreed. The scheme is due to begin next September, when 5,500 places will be offered.

Only a few schools invited to join the scheme are boys' and girls' High Schools, Grammar Schools, Girls' Modern Secondary Schools, Girls' Technical Colleges and Girls' Modern Secondary Schools.

Under the scheme a family with two children and a gross income of £5,200 will have all



Suspended QC: Mr William Rees-Davies, QC, Conservative MP for Thanet, West, who has been suspended from practising at the Bar for six months because of professional misconduct.

By Fred Emery

Political Editor

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HOME NEWS

Mr and Mrs Cadbury to pay £400 fines and costs of £2,000 for wasting police time

From Arthur Osman

Peter Cadbury, aged 62, the former chairman of Westward Television, and his wife, Mrs Angela Jane Cadbury, aged 40, were each fined the maximum of £200 yesterday for wasting police time. They were ordered to share equally the costs of £2,300.

Banstead Magistrates' Court was told the day had wasted 202 hours 10 minutes of police time at a cost of £936.36.

Mr and Mrs Cadbury, it was said, had been responsive to rumour when she wrote an anonymous letter, which he posted, to the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, alleging corruption by two senior officers of Plymouth City Council.

Mr Michael Sherrard, QC, for the defence, told the court: "They have been in their homes about corruption in public life... These have been buzzed so loud that reason and better judgment were deafened.

"The result is this public humiliation."

Mr Michael Conibee, for the prosecution, said that within the last week the Director of Public Prosecutions had received a cheque for £1,000 from Mr Cadbury's lawyers to compensate the police.

The defendants, of Lyndham House, Yealmpton, Devon, pleaded guilty to a summons which alleged that in September 1979, they "caused waste of employment of police time".

They did so by making to Mr Graham Jinks, then Lord Mayor of Plymouth, a false report tending to show that Mr Andrew Forbes Watson, the council's chief executive, and Mr Graham Jones, the city's estates surveyor, had been committing offences of corruption.

Mr Sherrard tendered sincere and unqualified apologies to those concerned in the allegations, which should never have been made".



Mr Cadbury leaving the court with his wife. He said: "We are delighted in all over."

He said: "We are happy to accept that such allegations have been thoroughly investigated by police and shown to be without any foundation whatsoever."

On behalf of Mr Watson and Mr Jones, it was said that they had accepted the unreserved apology and the complete withdrawal of defamatory allegations. Mr Cadbury had undertaken to pay the costs and agreed damages plus indemnity costs.

Mr Sherrard described Mr Cadbury as "a likable, extrovert showman". In private talks with Mr Jinks in the Lord Mayor's parlour there had been discussion about "alleged extensive corruption in the affairs of Plymouth airport", he said. Mr Jinks led them to believe that if the authority had some in-

formation to go on, even anonymous, it would justify an inquiry.

Mr Cadbury and his wife thought they were being invited to give impetus to such an inquiry."

Mr Coombe said the anonymous letter alleged that "a number of workers at city hall have been concerned about the conduct of the chief executive". It asked for action "about the bribery and corruption that is going on".

The final straw, it was said, was the new theatre in the city, but before that a lot of things had been going on with "handbacks a matter of course".

The letter concluded: "Obviously we cannot sign our names" and was signed "Yours hopefully, Six of your local civic workers".

Mrs Cadbury admitted to

police that she had written the letter. "I am very impulsive... I knew what I put: I thought people might take notice of it. I have no firsthand evidence... it is purely gossip."

Later Mr Cadbury's only comment was: "My private life and the running of a television station have nothing to do with each other."

Asked if he was concerned about the result affecting the Independent Broadcasting Authority decision on the new franchise, he said: "We will get the franchise." Since last July he has been involved in a dispute over the chairmanship of Westward Television.

The IBA said last night it had no comment to make on the case. It is considering whether Mr Cadbury should run Westward for the remaining 15 months of its franchise.

Houses near minster 'insensitive'

By John Young

Planning Reporter

Plans for a housing development on the south side of Beverley Minster, Humberside, are to be considered by the local authority planning committee today.

They have been strongly opposed by a number of amenity groups, including the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Ancient Monuments Society, and by those who have been responsible for raising more than £65,000 for the minster's restoration.

Mr George Odey, joint secretary of the restoration appeal, described the proposed development as "a case of insensitive hard-line parallel". The movement should call in the application for a public inquiry, he said.

"Since the Georgian period, modest houses have crowded up close to three sides of the minster. But by fortunate accident the south elevation has retained its open aspect to the present day.

"That superb view is now threatened by proposals to build a group of new houses immediately in front of and parallel to the full length of the choir and both the greater and lesser south transepts, with a municipal car park further to the south."

The application has been made by the St Andrew Street Housing Association.

Objectors, while not opposed to the provision of such housing, claim there are equally suitable alternative sites in the town. The conservative group, Save Britain's Heritage, yesterday urged the council to postpone a decision.

Export clash on slave trading documents

By Michael Horsnell

Eighteenth-century documents describing the rearguard action by English traders against the abolition of slavery in the West Indies were at the centre of an export argument yesterday.

About fifty volumes of the minute books of the West India Committee, formed in the mid-1700s to protect English sugar interests, are to be sold to the West Indies University for an estimated £45,000. Heritage in Danger has demanded that an export licence be refused.

Financial difficulties have forced the owners, the West India Committee, which now concentrates on promoting trade and investment between the United Kingdom and the Caribbean, to sell the documents. They date back to 1757 and include details of the mutiny on the Bounty.

The Department of Trade

has received an application for an export licence which, an official said yesterday, would be considered with the assistance of experts on historic documents.

Mr Hugh Leggett, secretary of Heritage in Danger, said: "These are documents of unique national importance. We are worried about the export of documents concerned with our history."

Colonel Max Robinson, director of the committee, said the organization had run into financial difficulties. "We are sorry to see them go, but delighted they should be sold to the West Indies University."

The precious minute books, which generally concern trading policies between Britain and the West Indies during more than 200 years, have been held in a London bank vault for many years.

Strike threatens custard and coffee supplies

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

The largest custard factory in Britain, at Banbury, Oxfordshire, remained closed yesterday as the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service tried to arrange meetings in a dispute about shift changes.

The factory, owned by the British subsidiary of General Foods, makes instant coffee, custard powder and dessert mixes under the Birds and Maxwell House labels.

Police escort is ordered for murder trial jury

By Richard Ford

A judge yesterday ordered that placemakers police must escort jury members to and from their homes and the Central Criminal Court in London during a trial involving six alleged murders.

Mr Justice May told the 10 men and two women at the start of the trial of four men that it was a precaution to avoid undesirable approaches to the accused.

The accused are:

Henry Macmillan, aged 38, of Harefield, Middlesex, a former engineer with the Royal Engineers, and a former member of the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery.

John Greenhous, aged 30, of Tenterden, Kent, a former Royal Artillery gunner, and a former member of the Royal Engineers.

John Atkinson, aged 28, of London, a former Royal Artillery gunner, and a former member of the Royal Engineers.

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John Wigmore, aged 28

WEST EUROPE

New liberal policy promised in Bundestag

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Oct 6

The jubilant Free Democrats today promised to use their big election success to achieve a "maximum of liberal policies" in government over the next four years.

Herr Günter Verheugen, the party's secretary-general, said today that the increase in their vote from 7.9 per cent to 10.6 per cent, in last night's election would make their aim of a more liberal coalition easier.

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, and Social Democratic leaders meet the Free Democrats led by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher tomorrow for talks on a new coalition agreement.

The defeated Christian Democratic-Christian Social Union opposition which had gathered over deep internal disagreements and tensions carefully avoided any debate about who was to blame.

Herr Franz Josef Strauß, for whom the election was probably his last chance to become Chancellor, took his defeat good humouredly. In television appearances as the results came out he appeared almost relieved that the ordeal of fighting a virtually hopeless campaign was at last over.

He said that he remains Prime Minister of Bavaria and that he still intends to make his voice heard in national politics.

There was a sober mood among Social Democrats who made only fractional gains.

Although the coalition's combined gains increased its parliamentary majority from 10 to a much more comfortable 45 they looked like making negotiations between the two parties even more difficult than expected.

With their greater weight and corresponding increase in self-confidence the Free Democrats can be expected to press for more moderate policies on important issues. While this would suit Herr Schmidt, who is distinctly to the right of his own party, it could cause difficulties with his left wing.

The election has brought 55 new Social Democrat deputies into the Bundestag, many of them younger and more left-wing than their predecessors.

However, such newcomers tend to become more moderate with parliamentary experience and only time will show whether the left wing is as big and as militant as the opposition have claimed it to be.

The following are the official results of the Bundestag elections:

	1980	1976	1980	1976	% Seats Seats
Social Democrats	42.9	42.6	219	214	
Christian Democratic and Christian Social Union	44.5	48.8	226	248	
Free Democrats	10.6	7.9	53	38	
Greens	1.5	—	—	—	
Others	0.9	—	—	—	

The SPD-FDP coalition has a majority of 45 seats in the Bundestag.

Leading article, page 13

Events in Afghanistan and Poland seen as cause of Portuguese Communists' heavy poll defeat

From Richard Wigg

Lisbon, Oct 6

Dr Francisco Sá Carneiro has won his election battle, securing a majority of about 10 seats in the new four-year parliament.

The country's Stalinist Communist Party experienced a heavy defeat. They failed to advance at yesterday's polls for the first time since elections were held after the 1974 revolution. They are now reduced to 40 seats in the 250-member Assembly of the Republic.

The Communists lost in seven constituencies across the country last night whereas the Socialists, for only one seat on extra five per cent of the votes were captured by the right-of-centre Democratic Alliance.

What had appeared to be a gamble going to the country for the second time after only eight months in government (and no choice about doing it) with a bare three-member majority paid off handsomely for Dr Sá Carneiro. The Communists' setback, he said, showed the correctness of the governing alliance's strategy to fight the Communists at the polls.

As euphoria broke out among his supporters in the hour of clear victory at about 4 am, Dr Carneiro told a press conference that the results meant defeat for President Eanes and his "political and military group".

Since President Eanes, running for a second term in two months, appears to enjoy widespread popularity among voters across political boundaries, the prospect looms of Portugal's two leading politicians locked in destabilizing combat.

It was the only thing to cloud yesterday's results because Dr Sá Carneiro repeated his

the Communist leader, went on television this morning to claim that many Portuguese voters had "certainly been deceived". He said the unparsable results proved the electors had been pressured by an "anti-democratic government".

Professor Freitas Do Amaral, the Foreign Minister and the second figure behind the Democratic Alliance's victory, said the Communists' losses were better explained by the departure of former sympathizers who had recently learnt from Afghanistan and Poland what communism really means.

The Prime Minister, who is 46, now emerges as Portugal's most skilled civilian leader in the period after the revolution, upheaval, having been able to organize those socialist forces which reject the socialist state tutelage imposed by Portugal's armed forces after the revolution.

Hundreds of cars, their horns honking and with thousands of Alliance party flags waved by the occupants, completely filled central Lisbon streets just before dawn today.

Crackers exploded and young men beat pots and pans to celebrate the Communists' defeat.

The provisional party strengths in the new Assembly (outgoing parliament in brackets) on latest count will be:

Democratic Alliance 136 (128) Republic and Socialist Front 73 (74)

United People's Alliance (Communists & allies) 40 (37)

Popular Democratic Union (Marxist-Leninist) 1 (1)

Leading article, page 13

Party backing for Italy's Premier-elect

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, Oct 6

Signor Aldo Forlani, the Prime Minister-elect, today concluded the first of two days of formal consultations in his search for a new government.

He began his talks with party leaders with promised support for him from Signor Fulvio Piccoli, the secretary of his own Christian Democratic Party, though that must be taken at less than its face value given the circumstances of the fall of the last government.

The outgoing Administration, led by the Christian Democrats, was brought down because of the votes of 30 or so of its official supporters who opposed it in a secret ballot.

Signor Forlani is thought to be aiming at a coalition similar to the outgoing one which consisted of Christian Democrats, Socialists and Republicans, with the addition of the Social Democrats.

In order to have a chance of success, he will need some sort of understanding with the Communists.

In the face of a bleak outlook . . .

Italians can boast of technical expertise

On October 14 the Queen begins a state visit to Italy, the first for 20 years. Peter Nichols, our Rome Correspondent, examines changes in Italy since the last visit. This is the second of a four-part series, the first of which was published yesterday.

In Genoa the Queen will see a city which in one sense at least is exemplary. The thrifty Genoese are frequently known as the Scots of Italy by fellow-Italians, though they are said to regard themselves a little like the English because of a conservative mentality and lack of ostentation.

As it is difficult to tell by appearance what a Genoese is worth, financially, so during the years of expansion Genoa looked less bombing than was the case and it now looks much less tense than, say, Turin as the recession begins to make itself felt.

This set of appearances bears out the aphorism of Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist Party leader, that Italy is looked on from outside as going miraculously well when things are going reasonably and disastrously when things are not so good.

The Italians are in part to blame for this dramatization of their situation. Objectively, though, their dilemma looks worse now than at any other moment since the return to fully-fledged democracy. The country has almost no oil of its own and little in the way of other raw materials. More than two-thirds of its fuel is in the form of increasingly expensive oil from the Middle East.

Expensive mistakes have been made in industrial planning, from the way large sums of money have been badly invested in the south to excessive reliance on petro-chemicals. Inflation is probably more than 30 per cent. The trade deficit for the first seven months of this year is double that for the whole of 1979. The average government lasts less than a year, which makes planning practically impossible.

But complicated technology is well within Italy's grasp. The Duke of Edinburgh will go to the Marconi plant during the Genoa visit. The company, owned by General Electric, is encountering difficulties because the telephone company, its principal civil client, has no more money to spend

Mother Teresa's plea for poor moves the Pope

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, Oct 6

The Pope was clearly moved by a 25 minute address from Mother Teresa, the Nobel Prize winner, at the "international Synod of Bishops" here. Her theme was the poor and their suffering.

Mother Teresa, gave as an example, the plight of the 10,000 of whom there were 30,000 in India. The Pope, who had decided to sacrifice them but she proposed that the grounds that the state had no right to do this, the bishops should be educated for responsible parenting.

She asked the Pope to set up a house in Rome for desperate mothers and unwanted children, recounting that a woman who was unable to breastfeed her child had come to her for help.

The child was beyond help and died in Mother Teresa's arms. The "poor" she told the bishops, "need your love".

On improving and extending equipment. Marconi still supplies the armed forces and one of the departments the Duke will see will be the design section-for missiles.

Less exemplary to the superfluous glance are Naples and Palermo, both on the royal route. Both are, unfortunately in a way, the Genoese would be proud of.

Organized of the royal tour should have noted with a sense of relief that St Januarius, the patron saint of Naples, performed his miracle this year, which is supposed to bring good fortune, and in what can only be called an exemplary manner.

The supposed miracle is a substance said to be the blood of the saint, which is kept in the cathedral, liquefies in reply to the prayers and impatience of the faithful. This year the liquefaction was said to have taken place in the record time of eight and a half minutes after the beginning of the Mass.

The service was particularly solemn because the Pope had declared: "San Januarius, patron of the whole Campanian region and not just of the Naples area. So all the Campanian bishops were present, the prefects of all the Campanian provinces and Signor Maurizio Valenzi, the communist Mayor of Naples.

The main road outside the cathedral was closed to traffic. Stalls, balloons, huge arches of lights took its place and thousands of people, mostly strolled late into the night amid the array of sweets and toys and the noise which are part of a Neapolitan celebration. It is a side of Italy which is still real and not to be forgotten in the talk of modern change.

Palermo is very different. It is the other centre of what was the old Kingdom of Naples before Italy was unified. There is an excellent ferry service between Naples and Palermo which, in either direction, allows a first look at dawn at the two ports when neither city has yet "set". For its day, its port is excellent, though its traffic is not as good as that of Genoa.

The congress was organized by M Jean-Claude Delaure, president of "SOS-Environment", who is standing in next year's presidential elections. His campaign is based on pointing out that voters have ears and increasingly do not like what they hear.

His claim is that the Government has done little or nothing to make itself heard against the increasing din of the modern world? That was the question before the 200 delegates to the second national congress of the Fight Against Noise, held in Paris over the weekend.

The congress was organized by M Thierry Chambolle, director of the Environment in the Ministry of the Environment which deals with pollution and public nuisance.

As a result there was considerable scepticism when he promised that a long-delayed public campaign to persuade people to respect their neighbours' ears.

Eight feared lost as ferry and tanker collide

From Our Own Correspondent

Rotterdam, Oct 6

Zwijndrecht, Oct 6. Eight people are believed to have died when an inland waterways tanker and a ferry collided in the Oude Maas River here this central Dutch town yesterday.

Five survivors were recovered during the night. Police were still searching for three people missing from the small ferry which was carrying pedestrians and cyclists between Zwijndrecht and Dordrecht. Nineteen people were taken to hospital, but 14 were discharged after treatment, police said.

Police said it was not known how many passengers were on board the ferry when the 1,960-ton Rotterdam-based tanker Innova hit its amidships while it was crossing the 250-yards wide river. The owners of the ferry Adria said up to 30 people could have been on board.

Weather conditions were good when the accident occurred, Reuter.

These terms were laid down in August by the Israeli Supreme Court which by a two-to-one vote rejected the mayors' appeal against deportation—but which decreed that they should be permitted to appeal before a higher court.

Moshe Kavani, the Mayor of Hebron, and Mr Muhammed Milhem of Halhoul—has deprieved the 700,000 West Bank population of their basic rights, said the court's president, Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister. No date has yet been set for the committee hearing, but there were no other grounds for the deportation.

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The congress revealed that more people were worried by the noise their neighbours made than by the noise of things such as aircraft, motorways and roadworks. While the state might be asked to finance soundproofing against new roads and airports, the real difficulty was how, for example, to stop the sports fan next door turning up the commentary on a late night soccer match?

The congress agreed that society as a whole turned a deaf ear to such difficulties and that what was needed was a vigorous publicity campaign to persuade people to respect their neighbours' ears.

OVERSEAS



Some of the many houses in Abadan that have been destroyed since Iran began bombing the Iranian oil port.

Too late to take cover as Basra sirens blare

From Robert Fisk

Basra, Oct 6

When you hear the air raid sirens in Basra, there is no point in taking cover because the Iranian Phantoms have already come and gone.

The jets usually appear just after the previous "all clear", having sounded and after strafing.

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It was the only thing to cloud yesterday's results because Dr Sá Carneiro repeated his

having an opinion does not exist here. France is a free country.

At the same time he served warning that if it was proved that any policeman had, in any way been involved in any attack he would be pursued "pitilessly".

This afternoon unions representing senior police officers issued a statement condemning the disclosures of their junior colleagues' spokesman. They called on them either to prove their claim or withdraw it.

M. Henri Buch, of the plainclothes police union, and M. Jose

Leal, of the National Police, have been issued figures to try to disprove the claim that the police have not pursued the extreme right, with the same vigour as they have the extreme left.

In the past year, the figures show, 51 right-wing militants have been arrested and questioned about attacks although only eight were convicted.

OVERSEAS

Soviet Union goes on offensive in an attempt to curtail Madrid human rights discussion

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Oct 6

As the belligerence in Madrid continues, the Russians are maintaining their insistence to try to prevent an audience with the Soviet ambassador into the Soviet record in Europe at next month's European security review conference.

For Moscow, anything would be better than a repetition of the Belgrade conference in 1977. This first review of the accords signed five years ago by every European country except Albania, together with Canada and the United States, turned into a "derailed" examination of Soviet violations.

The Russians were forced on to the defensive, and were away smirking and taunting. They have therefore gone on the offensive to prevent a recurrence. The Soviet press has been calling for a "constructive" and "business-like" atmosphere at Madrid and the avoidance of "polemics and confrontation". What the Russians mean is that the conference should concentrate on the military situation in Europe instead of human rights.

They are lobbying hard to make "military parity" the main theme, and this would give them the chance to press their calls for an immediate halt in Nato's programme to deploy American "nuclear missiles in western Europe".

They could also win propaganda credits for the unilateral Soviet withdrawal of troops from East Germany last year.

In addition, the Russians would gain a clear military objective: if the conference were to call on the Americans to accept the Soviet offer to negotiate on the Nato missiles only "in conjunction" with

American forward-based systems, Moscow would then have international legitimacy for increasing the belligerence stakes.

Prada recently expressed the hope that the Madrid conference would call for a new conference on military defence and disarmament in Europe, one of President Reagan's key projects, and this should tackle arms limitation before human rights.

However, the Russians know that the West is unlikely to accept this, and that cuts on conventional human rights and the free flow of information should be prepared for fall-back.

A foreign affairs weekly said last month that the Russians would not be the first to start the propaganda battle over the West's "hypocritical" interpretation of human rights.

However, "New Times" said, "if the desire to hold the meeting in the spirit of propaganda confrontation prevails in Madrid as it did at the Belgrade meeting, the Soviet Union and its allies will give a fitting rebuff to the attack on them".

This week, it will be seen if the man in charge of the Russians can come under pressure.

On dissidents, they will argue that each dissident put on trial has clearly broken the Soviet Union's published laws. These trials of leading figures at least stuck reluctantly to legal procedure so that the Russians could demonstrate that "guilt had been fairly established".

Care was taken to link prominent dissidents with western subversives or rousing crimes and play down purely political charges.

Over the past year the campaign against dissent, though relentless, has been gradual to avoid a damaging blaze of pub-

lics. — Reuter

Ku-Klux-Klan leader nominated as Democrat admits he is racialist

From Michael Leepman
San Diego, Oct 5

Mr Tom Metzger, a 42-year-old television repair man, is the state director of the Ku-Klux-Klan of California, a group pledged to fight for white supremacy. He is also the Democratic candidate for the United States Congress in a large rural constituency north and west of this southern California city.

In the June primary, by appealing to the most conservative instincts in a community dominated by farmers and retired people, he beat the regular party candidate by a few hundred votes. Now he is confident of scoring as surprising a victory over the Republican incumbent and taking his frankly racialist message to Washington.

Mr Metzger lives with his wife, five children, and an Irish terrier dog in a crowded house in Fallbrook, a farming town about 60 miles north-west of San Diego. As he works from home, the house is crammed with incomplete television sets and electronic gizmos.

"Until a few years ago" he conducted his television repair business from a shop in town, but gave it up after getting into financial trouble by refusing to pay taxes for four years.

"I didn't pay because I was up with the Vietnam war", he said.

of the French and Russian revolutions and the Second World War.

He still holds that view, but adds: "It is a bad mistake for any group to come to the conclusion that all the world's problems are created by the Jews."

Last week the California Attorney-General issued a statement that the Ku-Klux-Klan was gaining strength in the state and was hoarding weapons.

"We do have arms, but not to excess and we don't have any arms cache", he said. "We have no policy of violence against non-whites but if non-whites or any other criminals attack our people they've got a problem... Western civilization will be preserved at all cost."

Last month he was the target of what police said was "an assassination attempt" at a party meeting. He often wears a bullet-proof vest.

He said the Klan was shifting from a "sell a soft sell approach". But it maintained the tradition of the notorious cross-burning ceremonies where participants wear hooded robes.

"They're usually private ceremonies," Mr Metzger explained. "There's usually one, but sometimes up to three crosses, anything from 30 to 40 feet in height. Robed members of the Klan carrying torches form a circle round the crosses. The circle goes clockwise and then counter-clockwise."

Reuter

Republicans move house in an effort to identify with the workers

Unemployment is dominant issue in Detroit

From David Cross
Detroit, Oct 6

During past presidential elections the Michigan campaign office of the Republican candidate has been in a convenient and affluent business area of central Detroit. This year it has moved to Detroit's dreary suburbs, where it is the headquarters of the Ford Motor Company, as well as many of its workers.

"Basically, we wanted a location which signified our interest in trying to 'change the economy for the working man', explains Mr Terry Davis, the local executive director of the Reagan-Bush campaign. "The change in the economy of most concern to the residents of Dearborn and their colleagues in other areas of the automotive capital of the world" is an improvement in the unemployment rate.

"Nearly everyone here has a friend or family member or is himself laid off or unemployed because the whole region is in a depression", Mrs Everett

Ruppe, the co-chairman of the campaign said.

Indeed, just down the road from the Reagan-Bush headquarters is a stamping plant which would normally employ 2,500 people. At the moment there are 600 or so working on the assembly lines and within a few months the plant is likely to be down to 100.

Moreover, the unemployment rate for the whole state rose last month to 12.7 per cent at a time when the nationwide jobless level fell slightly to 7.5 per cent.

Like blue-collar workers in other parts of the industrial north Michigan's car workers have traditionally voted for Democratic candidates. But this year those who live already made up their minds seem to be divided roughly equally between Mr Reagan and Mr Carter at the moment.

More important for the campaign of both Republican and Democratic nominees, an unusually large number have yet to make their choice for the White House.

The Republican strategy for

wooing the uncommitted blue-collar workers is to emphasize the new deal elements of Mr Reagan's economic programme.

Under the theme "Reagan for jobs", his campaign workers in Michigan point to the many U-turns in President

which are working to President Carter's advantage include a general perception that the campaign of Mr John Anderson, the independent candidate, is fading (discredited supporters of Mr Anderson are still voting for Mr Carter), as well as Mr Reagan's call for the active support of Mr Coleman Young, the black mayor of Detroit, who is expected to deliver most of the black vote.

All the latest public opinion polls agree that the state of Michigan is, to quote Mr Davis, "a horse race, leading to a very close election".

Mr Carter's campaign organizers concede that the President's support among the 550,000 rank-and-file members of the car workers' union, the UAW, is not as strong as it should be at this mid-point in the election campaign. But Mr Curt Wiles, the state coordinator for the Carter-Mondale campaign, has detected a gradual move away from Mr Reagan by blue-collar workers towards the President.

Other factors in the state

which are working to President Carter's advantage include a general perception that the campaign of Mr John Anderson, the independent candidate, is fading (discredited supporters of Mr Anderson are still voting for Mr Carter), as well as Mr Reagan's call for the active support of Mr Coleman Young, the black mayor of Detroit, who is expected to deliver most of the black vote.

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In a speech to a technical college in Milwaukee, Mr Carter said that the Republican plan to cut income taxes by 30 per cent over the next three years was "economic quicksilver".

"It glitters, it promises quick

results and easy answers, but ends up being worthless," he added.

Jamaicans go to the polls on October 30

Kingston, Oct 6. — Mr Michael Manley, the Jamaican Prime Minister, announced that a general election would be held on October 30.

Last February, after disputes with the International Monetary Fund over aid, Mr Manley said he would call an early election to allow Jamaicans to decide which economic path to follow.

An opinion poll published in the Daily Gleaner newspaper yesterday said that the opposition Jamaican Labour Party led by Mr Edward Seaga was likely to win the election.

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Carter attack: President Carter opened the final month of his re-election campaign today with a harsh attack on the tax, welfare and education programmes of Mr Reagan.

In a speech to a technical college in Milwaukee, Mr Carter said that the Republican plan to cut income taxes by 30 per cent over the next three years was "economic quicksilver".

"It glitters, it promises quick

results and easy answers, but ends up being worthless," he added.

All the latest public opinion

polls agree that the state of

Michigan is, to quote Mr Davis, "a horse race, leading to a very close election".

PARLIAMENT, October 6, 1980

Mr Heseltine accused of preempting decision of House

House of Lords
Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, had behaved in an unbecoming, arrogant way, Lady Stedman, for the Opposition, said before the Local Government, Planning and Land (No 2) Bill began in committee stage.

He had already acted on Clause 41 (General power to reduce rate support grant) before the House had considered, let alone accepted, it. In utter disregard of the function of the House, he announced that 14 councils would have their grant cut for over-spending.

He had acted in an unbecoming arrogant way by using this proposed retrospective legislation to preempt the decision of the House by taking unto himself powers it had not yet approved.

The House would be concerned about reports in the national press last week to the effect

that Secretary of State had been entertaining selected peers from shire counties and diving figures to demonstrate how much better off their shire county would be next year if the Bill was passed.

Equally disturbing were reports

that an arrangement had been made between the Government and peers representing the Association of County Councils.

Bill will cut number of allotments—Opposition

The decline in the number of allotments in Britain was continuing and the Bill would decrease it further, Lord Wallace of Cosham, for the Opposition, said during the committee stage of the Bill.

He was moving an amendment to Clause 1 (Relaxation of ministerial control of authorities) to delete from the Bill provisions limiting the Secretary of State's power to require local authorities in the discharge of their functions relating to allotments.

He said that at least 120,000 people were waiting for allotment plots. In 1969 there were about 500,000 allotments covering 60,000 acres. By 1977 the number had declined to 480,000, covering 50,000 acres.

The Bill would not increase the amount of land being made available for allotments but decrease it further because government proposals in the Secretary of State's power to require local authorities to give up allotments in their area.

However, the Government had decided not to repeal—as it had formerly planned—the provision which gave the Government the power to require local authorities to give up allotments in their area.

Austria have dropped their great-keeper, Friedl Konzila, from the national team following an incident on Saturday in which he appeared to be drunk as he left the team bus.

The proposals were designed to remove those central government controls that were no longer necessary over local authority allotment activities. That did not imply that the Government intended allotments as unimportant. They had an important part to play.

The Government was considering comprehensive legislation to take in the Thorpe report. This had been in the background for some time, making, for some time, to introduce a recreational gardening Bill. The Government was looking at the position. He could not give any commitment on it further than that.

The amendment was rejected by 133 votes to 91—Government majority, 42.

Lord Wallace of Cosham, for the Opposition, moved an amendment to prevent the relaxation of ministerial control regarding allotments coming into effect until January 1, 1982.

The amendment was rejected by 129 votes to 63—Government majority, 46.

House adjourned, 10.23pm.

Lords back in old home

The Lords resumed sitting in the Chamber for the first time since the inquiry into the investigation of the ceiling began after a wooden bough had fallen onto the benches during a debate.

Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House, said in a statement—my last statement to the House shortly before the recess—that he had received the hope that we would be able to return to our usual parliament chamber in October. This has proved possible and I am sure the whole House is relieved at that.

Technically the project has so far gone well. The temporary ceiling which also provides a working platform is now installed and I think the House will agree that the scheme is acceptable. It is certainly visible, is not obtrusive or offensive. There is no interference with our usual layout either on the floor of the chamber or in the galleries.

I am grateful to the contractors, the joiners and plasterers as far as they were, so I can but hope that the House will find that

Peer spanned gap between judge and politician

Tribute: were paid to Viscount Dilhorne, a former Lord Chancellor, Attorney General, who died during the recess.

Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House, and Viscount Dilhorne's widely acclaimed ability to span the difficult gap between politics and law, and his was perhaps the greatest tribute the House could pay to him.

He was a vigorous and robust parliamentarian who had with an intense capacity for work. His political and legal acumen was formidable. He lived life to the full. His integrity and the strength of his conviction was beyond question.

Ensured the blunt and perhaps sometimes forbidding exterior, there lay a deep sensitivity and strong sense of humour. Lord Dilhorne had been, indeed, an institution of the House and would be missed by all with admiration and affection.

Lord Elwyn-Jones, for the Opposition, said there was sorrow at Lord Dilhorne's sudden passing.

His record of service in Parliament, in government and in the life of the law was outstanding.

Those of us (he said) who served with him in the Commons will remember always his touch robustness in the face of stormy parliamentary outbursts: his immense industry; his full commitment to whatever political or legal task he undertook. Few men were blinder in personal relations.

Lord Wigoder, for the Liberal Party, said Lord Dilhorne displayed a shrewd, vigorous common sense which carried vast influence in every corner of the House.

The entire House would be concerned at the way a minister had acted in this instance. The House would not be likely to such an extent to be disregard of its constitutional rights.

Lord Balfour, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, said that for some time the Government had been pressed to say which authorities if any would come within the transitional arrangements when the legislation now going through became an Act. Until that time, the Government would not know what would have their grant cut for over-spending.

He had already acted on Clause 41 (General power to reduce rate support grant) before the House had considered, let alone accepted, it. In utter disregard of the function of the House, he announced that 14 councils would have their grant cut for over-spending.

He had acted in an unbecoming arrogant way by using this proposed retrospective legislation to preempt the decision of the House by taking unto himself powers it had not yet approved.

The House would be concerned about reports in the national press last week to the effect that new members of the Association of County Councils had been entertaining selected peers from shire counties and diving figures to demonstrate how much better off their shire county would be next year if the Bill was passed.

Equally disturbing were reports

that an arrangement had been made between the Government and peers representing the Association of County Councils.

Ipswich must play first leg of Uefa Cup tie at home

Ipswich Town must play the first leg of their Cup tie at home against Bohemians of Prague on October 27. Portman Road has rejected a plea to play the game in Prague on October 21. When the draw was made on Saturday night, Ipswich had to wait 24 hours after the Danes had played against Yugoslavia in a World Cup qualifying match.

Ipswich Town Uefa head-quarters yesterday to see whether the time lag could be bridged by waiting for the Tuesday night draw to be held because Sparta Prague were also drawn at home first in the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Ipswich had to change the order of their matches.

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the time lag could be bridged by waiting for the Tuesday night draw to be held because Sparta Prague were also drawn at home first in the European Cup Winners' Cup.

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Fashion

by Prudence Glynn

Finland is the Manchester of Scandinavia. People make jokes at its expense, it does rain a lot, and most of the people one knows have never been there.

Similar myths could be pursued in terms of the expected cuisine, which in Manchester is popularly supposed to consist of scampi and chips and in Finland re-cycled snowshoes. There is a resemblance in motoring hazards, since in either area you are liable to be hit by a large beast, though for the Mancunian it will turn out to be a bison on a Suzuki and in Finland it will be an elk. Crushing into elks is a major part of Finnish motorway life and if you think that I am retailing some absurd accounts about overgrown cows found rolling on your bonnet please remember that in Finland you may not drink and drive.

To be honest I have not been to Manchester very recently as for all I know the scampi is served with just a slice of lemon and the chips are now Vanderbiltised. Raleigh exists. But I have been to Finland, where the food is simply delicious, it does rain a lot and there are too many elks.

I went to Finland to re-examine a company for which I have profound regard, Fritala. It is a privately owned, is the largest tanning complex in the northern hemisphere and its motive power is its boss, Pertti Hellemaa. Through the tannery pass per day six hundred hides (cattle, bison and maybe 250 for all I know) and 3,000 skins of sheep and goats and smaller animals. When you consider that the hides are split, i.e. what you end up wearing or sitting on is only half the thickness God gave the cow in the first place, you can get an idea of the volume handled by the plants.

Tanneries are not for the nervous or squeamish. Even with the most modern equipment the place looks like a minor circle of Dante's Inferno, with goblin faces, white as Finns by natural colouring, poking unmentionable bundles into horrendous substances. There is a saying in the trade that you are not a man until you have fallen into the tanning tank, but no one has ever presumed to inform this writer as to what you are when you get out. Fritala offers luckily no chance of falling in, because the whole process is so sophisticated and as automated as is possible in a trade which goes back to the days of clothing after all, and has been traditionally labour intensive.

Primitive man flayed his prey and preserved the skins by washing. Nature being always one step ahead of art, the areas where skins were necessary for warmth and protection were also areas of heavy forestation and abundant in the oak.

Tan is in fact the bark of the oak, and I imagine it took only

a few thousand years to work out that some pools and rivers were better at keeping your sabre-tooth tiger wrap in good repair than others. Hence the word, tanning.

Along the frisky Mediterranean, of course there was no need to dip elegant draperies into olive oil for curative purposes, though the Romans wore skins in battle, presumably the spoils of the African continent and preserved by their own

methods of spice and salt. In the huge cellars which stock the hides to be processed by Fritala—the climate does not allow for outside tanning—the hides and skins are all still salted. Of course fuel is much more expensive, but labour costs have more than kept pace.

So what of the fashion content of this story? The problem which confronts Fritala is the classic one of marketing and handling and labour. Isn't fuel an impossible burden when shipping all the way from Australia? No, because in the end it costs no more to get it from London or Birmingham, which involves much more handling.

To counteract this, Fritala has introduced an indelible stamp on its removable upholstery.

When you unzip your sofa because there is a hole in it, it is only if the printed F shows

clear that you can know what you bought for the dog to scratch. To fight the competition from cardboard instant fashion leathers and suedes and leather is high fashion now, Fritala rely on superb quality, reliability and

status. It is not surprising to find that cheap imitations have penetrated the market, at both furnishing and fashion levels. To counteract this, Fritala has introduced an indelible stamp on its removable upholstery. When you unzip your sofa because there is a hole in it, it is only if the printed F shows clear that you can know what you bought for the dog to scratch. To fight the competition from cardboard instant fashion leathers and suedes and leather is high fashion now, Fritala rely on superb quality, reliability and

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Lord Chalfont

How Mr Reagan would handle the decade of danger

If God had meant the Americans to have a new President, said a former United States Secretary of State recently, he would have sent them a candidate. This characteristically modish observation has recently begun to lose some of its sting—at least for the Republican Party. Mr Ronald Reagan has emerged, especially for those who are deeply concerned with the direction of American defence and foreign policy, as a credible candidate in his own right, not merely as the principal beneficiary of the Anybody-But-Carter movement.

In his analysis of the global role for the United States under a Reagan administration it is difficult to discern the benevolent, benevolent, international grandiose so beloved of the political mythmakers. There is, however, clear determination to restore what he regards as the dangerously eroded political and military effectiveness of the United States.

"Because of decisions made by the Carter administration," says Mr Reagan, "which have resulted in the delay or cancellation of strategic programme that might have preserved our security, the United States must undertake a vigorous, sustained effort to restore the margin of safety which was the means by which peace has been maintained since the end of the Second World War."

Mr Reagan begins from a point of departure which is common to many perceptive observers in the West, and which has up to now been most persuasively articulated by Dr Henry Kissinger, who remains a powerful voice in the councils of the Republican Party.

It is that the 1980s will be a time of especial danger for the free world when it will face what is sometimes called the "window of vulnerability" as recent developments in the Russian military apparatus begin to confer upon the Soviet Union a decisive, if temporary, strategic superiority.

Although Mr Reagan believes

In a recent correspondence

with Lord Chalfont,
presidential candidate

Ronald Reagan discussed
the United States role
in world affairs

that the most likely application of Soviet power in the 1980s will be in the realm of conventional forces, used principally as a means of exerting political pressure, he is also disturbed by the change in the balance of strategic nuclear power. His reasoning is that if the Soviet Union achieves what it believes to be a capacity to fight and win a nuclear war, its leaders may begin to doubt the inclination or ability of the West to oppose the Soviet aggression even with conventional military forces.

Even if the West should prove to be more resolute than expected—as certainly we shall be—it is necessary, by maintaining a position of obvious strength, to remove that doubt from the Russian mind before it can lead the Soviet Union to make any rash moves.

"Miscalculation of that type," says Mr Reagan, "can become the breeding ground of unnecessary but risky crises".

The western response to the threat posed by the "window of vulnerability" should be based largely, in Mr Reagan's view, on the cohesion of the alliance. "Some of the western allies" he suggests, declining to be any more specific, "are doing more to contribute their fair share to our common security than others". He leaves no doubt that, given his own determination to restore America's

own depleted military strength, he will expect a similar increase of effort by the allies.

The western nations, he insists, must demonstrate cohesion, the ability to plan and prepare together, and the resolve to do so—we must first of all develop a collective and comprehensive long-range plan for dealing with the challenges of the 1980s, and this means that our foreign policy must be guided by a consistent and principled strategy, understandable to friends and adversaries alike."

In pursuit of this strategy, Mr Reagan is committed to the early deployment of America's new intercontinental missile system, MX, to the rapid development of a new strategic bomber and the modernization of theatre nuclear forces.

He is also determined to improve general purpose forces, to establish a permanent fleet in the Indian Ocean and to build more aircraft carriers, submarines and amphibious ships. The strategy, and the forces planned to implement it, clearly envisage the effective application of military force far from the mainland of the United States, including the capacity for military action, in the words of the Republican Party platform, at points of Soviet vulnerability.

Mr Reagan concedes that strategic arms limitation talks might proceed while the Soviet Union ignored such pledges "and marginal arms agreements might even be possible, but real success is unlikely".

If, therefore, Mr Reagan wins the presidential election on November 4, there will almost certainly be a decisive shift in American foreign and military

arms limitation agreements with the Soviet Union, based upon strict reciprocity and adequate verification. "I am willing," he says, "to sit at the negotiating table with the Soviet Union as long as it takes to achieve such an agreement."

He regards the present strategic Arms Limitation Treaty II agreement, signed by President Carter but not yet ratified by the Senate, as "deficient and "badly flawed in many respects". A Reagan administration would require congressional approval for its defence programmes and especially for the improvements in strategic nuclear forces, before going ahead with negotiations on strategic arms limitation.

Furthermore, although he does not subscribe to any automatic or mechanical concept of "linkage", Mr Reagan believes strongly that progress in strategic arms limitation and Soviet international behaviour cannot be kept separate. "We can," he says, "expect much success in arms control if the Soviets are permitted to use it to mask or excuse efforts to obtain unilateral political advantages."

He is convinced that the signals sent to the Soviet leaders, and to the rest of the world, by the United States Government have often failed to serve American policy aims, because arms control negotiations have been carried on as if Soviet international behaviour were irrelevant.

He points out that, when Salt I was signed, the Russians undertook to cooperate with the West in avoiding or dampening situations that might lead to confrontations; and not to seek unilateral advantages.

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Le Monde LA STAMPA THE TIMES DIE WELT Europa

VOL. VIII. No 1
AN ECONOMIC MONTHLY PUBLISHED IN
BRITAIN, FRANCE,
WEST GERMANY AND ITALY

An African EEC?



Photograph: Ian Watts — Africa magazine

Not many of today's leading Third World officials have any original message to offer which departs from the well-worn themes and dominant ideologies. One who has is Mr Edem Kodjo, the Togolese secretary-general of the Organization of African Unity.

Replying to questions from Gerard Viratelle for "Europa", he declares himself in favour of "endogenous" development of the countries of the Third World and calls for the creation of an African economic community. His critical comments in this interview follow upon the noted speech that he made at the eleventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly, which ended on September 15, in which he claimed that it was "vain to rely on global negotiations such as the North-South dialogue to reform the international system; delays and all manner of safeguard clauses severely limit the impact of the conclusions reached".

How do you view the economic situation in the Third World in general and in Africa in particular?

There are more and more dangers. Inflation is running on. Unemployment is getting worse. The poor countries' balance-of-payments deficit in 1980 could be as much as \$70,000m (Africa's share being \$44,000m), whereas the oil-exporting countries' combined surplus is likely to be \$110,000m. As the same time, the industrialized countries' official development aid is 0.36 per cent of gross national product, likely to be no more than 0.35 per cent by 1990.

The situation in Africa is especially tragic. The World Bank has described it as "close to catastrophe". It calculates that the African countries' average annual growth rate during the period 1980-90 will be no more than 1.1 per cent.

Africa is still a poor continent ravaged by natural disasters and famine. Its population will have doubled by the year 2000 and it is likely that it will then be able to meet only 60 per cent of its food requirements. Africa has about 70 million unemployed, the shortest life expectancy and the highest mortality rate. How will it be able to survive under these conditions, especially if it also suffers losses of export trade?

What solutions do you have for remedying this situation?

Two development decades have yielded only very limited results for the majority of the peoples of the Third World. It is clearly necessary to make a fresh start—not to try to make something of past efforts but completely to reverse the course followed over the past two decades.

In Africa's case, it is necessary

to bring a new approach to the problem of development which does not rely on global negotiations and the North-South dialogue, however important or even essential they may be.

Africa has very substantial resources. It has outstanding proved potential. But its output is extricated, geared to supplying foreign markets rather than to meeting the needs of its populations, many of which are in Africa.

The oil-producing countries are not doing what needs to be done. Most of them—at least those with financial surpluses—are devoting well above 1 per cent of their gap to aid (the average for the OPEC countries is 5 per cent in 1980), and they are setting up machinery for increasing their development aid still further. But the African countries have been left reeling by the successive oil price increases and they cannot wait.

We do not blame the oil-producing countries for starting the crisis. But they have made it worse. Nor do we say that they are wrong—on the contrary, we support their action. But their right to sell their raw materials at a high price must be matched by obligations. This is why we are calling for more coherent and more rational energy cooperation. States should operate in the market so that recycling is not left mainly to private interests.

Do you take hope from the text of the strategy for the third development decade in the 1980s?

It is a general document which does not go far enough. In many countries, such as in Africa, efforts are being made to evolve a new style of development. The strategy defines general objectives and sets out quantitative data. It does not challenge the accepted development models, some of which are copied from the West.

The action programme adopted by the heads of state defines the ways and means of achieving national and collective self-sufficiency. This programme has become a reference document for the international development strategy to be pursued during the third decade. How it works out in practice will depend largely on what is done by individual countries, but progress will be

gained, moderate, interested biography, Europe, Social Democracy, making up party for group travel from Belgium to Britain in new year. Liberal expenses share fuel costs. Box XEEC 1.

BLONDE BOMBSHELL, still just 54, enjoying recent windfall from kindly European gentlemen friends, seeks fun-loving playmates for collective practising of martial arts. Box EDC 2.

SELF-CONFESSED FEDE RALIST, soon to move from Luxembourg to Brussels, needs 12 apostles for crucifixion scene in Greek tragedy provisionally titled Nine Plus One. Box EEC 10.

FORMER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER, Royal Navy, now 68, planning retirement to own farm, seeks backing from trade unions or similar for further seaside venture. Box NEC 0.

410 STAGE-STRUCK GUYS AND DOLLS—urgently seek permanent pad for theatre workshop currently playing Strasbourg, but due to tour when Luxembourg premises available. Box EP 1.

ELEGANT WINE BUFF, 60 this year, sensitive, con-

Oil sanctions no curb on Soviet expansion

Should the West punish the Soviet Union, if it pursues expansionist policies, by withholding technology which it needs for its economic growth?

In my view, those who continue to support this theory of "linkage" ignore the lesson of experience. The reality is that economic sanctions have consistently failed to curb Soviet ambitions. More seriously, sanctions ignore the dictates of Western self-interest.

This is particularly true of embargoes on oil technology. Such policies, regularly adopted by the United States and some European countries in recent years, are now in force as a result of the invasion of Afghanistan. Though intended to influence Soviet behaviour by striking at the jugular vein of her economy, the energy sector, I believe sanctions will almost certainly boomerang, by striking at the heart of vital Western interests.

The reason for this is that within about a decade the Soviet Union will cease to be a net exporter of oil and will probably become a sizable net

importer. Alternative sources of energy are highly unlikely to fill the gap; nor is the scope for conservation very great, because the Soviet Union is already relatively efficient in its use of energy. Assessments of Soviet energy demands and supplies may differ, but to embargo sales of oil technology will inevitably hasten the Soviet Union's predicament.

What, then, will be the impact on our own interests as a net importer of oil?

First, we may well see substantial increases in the price of oil, even if the Soviet Union has sufficient hard currency to buy only an additional million barrels a day. As the past year has shown, small decreases in supply or increases in demand can have a dramatic effect on oil prices, by inducing panic speculation by consuming countries.

Second, this additional demand on the world oil market will put more power in the hands of Opec. As a result, Western economies will become more vulnerable to the kind

of volatile changes of policy which are now sweeping the oil-producing countries of the Middle East, and which increasingly shape Opec policy as a whole.

Third, the less oil the Soviet Union manages to produce herself, the more dependent her East European satellites will become on oil from the world market. This will need to be paid for by diverting their limited earnings of hard currency from productive investment. The consequent damage to economic growth will risk exacerbating the social tensions which already exist, as we have seen so vividly in Poland in recent weeks.

If this Eastern European powder keg threatened to ignite, the communists' strategy would be loath to risk even a gradual liberalization of their societies, for they would know that this would serve only to encourage the forces of change. The evidence of recent history, with the notable exception of Poland, strongly suggests that repression would be intensified and

that the Iron Curtain would be lowered again.

West Germany, in particular, would be tempted, or even driven by public opinion, into making a closer accommodation with the Soviet Union, in order to jeopardize the human and commercial contacts with Eastern Europe which a decade of détente has brought about. The danger of further damage to the unity, and therefore the effectiveness, of the Atlantic Alliance hardly needs underlining.

The fourth consequence of becoming a net importer of oil would be greatly to reinforce the traditional interest of the Soviet Union in securing a dominant influence over the oil-producing states of the Middle East. Indeed, given the Soviet block's chronic shortage of hard currency with which to purchase oil on the world market, and Opec's increasingly tight control over oil markets, there would seem to be no choice for the Kremlin except to pressure Opec into supplying the necessary quantities of oil on concessional terms.

Nor need Moscow threaten military action to achieve this

objective. Because of the sensitivity of regimes in the region to the local military balance, and their anxiety about Western reliability, it might be possible for the Soviet Union to use its substantial military presence as a latent threat, while pursuing more subtle means of obtaining political leverage.

These could include subversion; exploitation of inter-state rivalries in the region; propaganda attacks against Arab leaders; alignment with the West and exploitation of the Arab-Israeli dispute to divide the Muslim countries from the West. It would be far better for the Soviet Union to put the Soviet Union in a very much better position to put pressure on local regimes.

One should not underrate the limitations on Soviet influence in the Middle East. But in my view, it makes no sense for us to insist on the elimination of oil technology to the Soviet Union if the end result is to encourage precisely those developments in Soviet behaviour in the international oil market and in Eastern Europe that we wish to prevent.



Iraqi soldiers during the war with Iran. Within the next decade the Soviet Union will cease to be an exporter of oil and will become a net importer. The additional demand will put more power in the hands of Opec and Western economies will become more vulnerable to the kind of volatile changes.

Frane Barbieri asks: where are the non-aligned going?

Choosing not to choose

How many worlds are there: two, three, four—or is it instead, tending to become just one world, with one destiny?

In other words, is the prevailing

tendency among countries to align themselves with opposing world blocks, or is the option of remaining unaligned being taken for granted?

These are questions that have to be answered a year after the sixth conference of heads of state of non-aligned countries, which took place in Havana last summer. The result of that summit of the largest of the world groups seemed somewhat contradictory. The principles and programmes that were adopted in the final documents were inspired by the pure doctrine of non-alignment, of critical equidistance from both the large blocks, and of moderation in the search for a peaceful resolution of world conflicts (above all, that between the developed and underdeveloped countries).

In the general atmosphere of

the conference, however, more

radical and unbalanced voices

were dominant, which inter-

ested non-alignment as an

assault movement destined to

overthrow the structures of the

old world, and, as such, the

"natural ally" of the Soviet

Union and the socialist

majority succeed in inducing Dr Castro and the Cuban representatives to coordinate their work on the line of the principles that were adopted. A year later, it can be said that the movement has, for the most part, passed the test successfully.

The Cuban President has not

succeeded either in aligning

with the non-aligned with those

that he considered natural allies—

the Russians—or in pro-

moving splits within the move-

ment, or defectors, as a result

of which he might have been

able to dominate the movement

more, after having cut its

membership down to size. What

Dr Castro did succeed in, how-

ever—and it was to be foreseen

that he would—was a certain

immobilization of the move-

ment, in the eyes of the ex-colonial

countries, from an old boss into

a preferential partner, at the

crucial moments of the inter-

national crisis, prevented the

non-aligned from committing

all their weight and prestige to

actions such as had hitherto

distinguished them.

Dr Castro was increasingly

isolated in the movement; but also to

his own wishes and his own

the coordinator, at the

crucial moments of the inter-

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non-aligned from committing

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The more the tension

increases, the greater the ten-

dency to divide even the

countries that have not joined

one block or another into

friends and enemies. Non-

alignment now offers the only

alternative to a further splitting

up of the world.

The Soviet Union is counting

on this area, calculating that it

can make the West's crisis final

(by depriving it of sources of

energy, raw materials and mar-

ket). Hence the strategy

aimed at extending also into the

Third World. The divisions

between East and West—

a chain of local conflicts which, in

their entirety, replace the effects of

a global confrontation.

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Within the framework of

non-alignment the preference

may be for the socialist system,

without submission to the

Russian world strategy or the

choice may be a capitalistic

model of development, without

again opening the doors to

Western domination. Since, in

Economies are out of control; recession is ravaging Western Europe; inflation rampages ahead.

World pattern implies deflationary forces are building momentum

European economies are out of control. Recession is ravaging Western Europe. But, worst of all, at the same time inflation is rampaging ahead. We live in a period of profound turbulence, disillusionment—a time where even those in power feel powerless.

Economists who preside over the policies of Western European governments desperately try to find a ray of light to indicate the direction of the road ahead, but are unable to do so.

In France the development of recessionary forces which began several months ago is now evident. Last month M. Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, warned the French people that there are no easy solutions to the problems to hand, focusing on the sharp rise in oil prices as being at the root of them.

M. Barre emphasized that oil price rises must be paid for by the French people in the form of lower real incomes. The trade deficit in France for the first half of 1980 was nearly 30,000m francs (57,500m) which represented a substantial deterioration over recent months. The July trade deficit was the second worst this year at 6,700m francs, bringing the shortfall to 36,000m francs.

Unemployment continues to rise—the level is now at 1,470,000, up 6 per cent on a year ago, while job vacancies have recently fallen by 4.7 per cent, underlining that there is unlikely to be any early relief from higher unemployment levels.

In August, M. Barre said the Government had no intention of stimulating demand until inflation and the balance of payments deficit had been brought under control. In contradiction, during the latter part of August, two of the major French banks cut their base lending rates by one half per cent to 12.4 per cent while day-to-day money rates dropped to the year's lowest point at 11 per cent.

It would appear that the French have not yet decided whether inflation or recession is the worse evil and have been switching monetary policy to counter whichever appears out of hand at the time. In Germany it seems the authorities have definitely decided that inflation is the far greater threat, having learnt by the bitter experience of the hyperinflation of the 1920s, which produced the worst of all possible economic calamities, involving a currency that was not worth the paper it was printed on and a depression to follow.

Monetary policy in Germany is distinctly one of contraction. Reflecting the Government's stance, unemployment rose in June for the first time in 20 years.

The effects of the tight monetary policy are beginning to show up in the rest of the economy. Growth in industrial production was down sharply according to the latest figures. The growth in domestic credit expansion is declining and, on the positive side, inflation appears to have peaked and is now under 6 per cent. Dr Otto Schlecht, Secretary of State in the Economics Ministry, last month emphasized the need to maintain a tight monetary policy until there is a clear sign that inflation is falling.

While Germany is pursuing a monetary policy of contraction, France is somewhere between that and an expansionary one. Italy is pursuing an expansionary policy leading to higher inflation and the social problems associated with it.

The social problems were dramatically illustrated at the beginning of August by the bomb explosion at Bologna railway station, which killed more than 80 people. That act was the most destructive demonstration of terrorism since the end of the Second World War.

The Italian Government is desperately trying to deal with the economic problems of the country against a background of rising interest rates, falling industrial production, rising inflation (the worst in Europe at 21 per cent) and excessive growth in the monetary aggregates where M1 is stated at an annual rate of slightly under 21 per cent.

In July the Government pro-

Terrorism in Italy. A scene at Bologna railway station after the bombing.

posed a package designed to resolve some of the country's economic difficulties but, resulting from constant opposition from the communists and neo-fascists, it now bears little resemblance to its original form or intent. The proposed deflationary levy of 0.5 per cent on industrial salaries has been withdrawn while the Government has been forced to halve the planned increase in the duty on alcohol and to cut the intended increase in VAT on house purchases.

There is an increasing danger that the expenditure elements of the planned package will remain while the original revenue proposals will be substantially cut back, which will add fuel to the inflationary forces and lead to further credit demands.

The original intention was to switch 4,000,000 lire (nearly 10 per cent of gross domestic produce) out of consumption and into industrial investment and exports. The final outcome is likely to lead only to further consumption.

The economy which gives the strongest evidence of being totally out of control is that of the United Kingdom. While the British Government claims to have been pursuing a "monetarist" policy which would solve the ills of the

country, the rate of inflation

remains the second highest of all major economies while the level of unemployment is the highest.

A few months ago it was

stated that sterling M3 was growing at a rate well within the Government targets. It is

now doubtful if anyone in the

Treasury knows precisely how

fast money supply is actually

growing. In July sterling M3 advanced by 5 per cent produc-

ing an annual growth rate of

60 per cent. In August there is

evidence that sterling M3 will

have advanced by 3 per cent

producing an annual growth

rate of 36 per cent.

These abnormally high

figures result from the removal of "corset" restrictions in

July, originally introduced in

1968. Discounting these dis-

tortionary, the Treasury claims

sterling M3 has advanced by

1 per cent to 2 per cent over

the past month, producing an

annual growth rate of between

12 per cent and 24 per cent

against a stated target by the

Government of between 7 per

cent and 11 per cent.

Britain's public sector bor-

rowing requirement bears as

little resemblance to stated

objectives as does the growth

in money supply. The target

for FSB was claimed to be

£2,500m in the spring Budget.

The total for the first five

months of this year is already

£7,800m. Critics of the Gov-

ernment cite the failure of

"monetarism" as the reason for

the country's poor economic

performance.

A summary of the entire

global economic pattern would

imply that deflationary forces

are now building momentum

and exerting pressures greater

than anything we have seen since the depression of the 1930s. The evidence is in the fact that economic aggregates in many countries have deteriorated to an extent worse than anything witnessed since the 1930s and there is little sign of improvement. At the same time, repeated efforts have been made by the authorities to blunt the deflationary forces which merely lead to counter-productive inflationary pressures.

Those countries currently cursed with a deepening recession and high inflation will ultimately find that economic deterioration will last much longer, and bite far deeper, than would have been the case if stringent economic policies designed to curb inflation were maintained.

In many instances throughout history inflation has been responsible for the total destruction of a nation. There is no case in recorded history where

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Scene of a modern drama in which man's survival is at stake

The Colorado Plateau—a paradise for some, but for how long?

The boundaries of four American states—Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico—meet here in the shape of a cross. This is the high Colorado Plateau—a breathtaking landscape of immense beauty and tranquillity where the vast plains stand at 2,500 metres above sea level and the peaks of the mountains on the horizon rise to more than 4,000 metres. One range is called the Sangre de Cristo (blood of Christ) mountains, from the way they turn red in the sunset.

It is a region of no interest to the farmer or the industrialist, but for the artist, the poet, and the geologist, it is a paradise, was new it was described by the geologist and oil explorer John Wesley Powell. Indians of various tribes were allowed to stay here or were driven out of other areas and came to live here. Today it is the scene of a modern drama in which man's survival is at stake.

The authorities call it a "national sacrificed area". It holds about half the United States' reserves of uranium, two-thirds of the oil shale in the country, and several rich coal deposits which have never been worked. The energy crisis has not been helped by the equivalent of war". President Carter announced in his famous speech on the subject in July 1979, when he set out the United States' new energy priorities, emphasizing the importance of the very products in which the Colorado Plateau is rich. Until 1953 it was "the only American uranium-producing region and it still accounted for almost two-thirds of output at the end of the 1970s.

According to the official programmes, the present production figures are to be multiplied by three, four or five by 1990 and by four to seven by the year 2000. If the Administration's hopes are fulfilled, at least a third of the country's new energy production plans will be concentrated in this region. Only Wyoming will be able to claim to have undergone an almost equally devastating experience.

The Navajo Indians are calling for the Colorado Plateau to be declared a national disaster area. With 85 per cent of the radioactivity contained in uranium ore remaining in the waste, there is more radioactivity on the plateau than in the whole of the rest of the United States. Most of this waste, usually in the shape of a cross, is disposed of in the tributaries of the Colorado, and the river, the wind and the rain carry it around the area.

Lung cancer is claiming the lives of one miner after another, while their wives and children can look forward to the symptoms of a more insidious sickness which develops more slowly. Already, "monstrously malformed" babies are being born in the area. The evidence of these various phenomena has helped the Indians to find new allies in the farmers from the surrounding regions who have always kept their distance in the past.

Our land is polluted and we remain the last bastion of war", the leaders of the opponents of mining claim. Even if the uranium mines were closed down completely today, it would take decades and billions of dollars to rid it of pollution."

It is time to worry about the reactions—and health—of a few hundred thousand Indians (there are now barely a million in the whole of the United States) when the entire energy policy of the greatest power in the world and its security of supply are at stake. White Americans, for all their perceptible toughness and good conscience about the original inhabitants of their continent, are generally described to keep them in line.

A great power is faced with the task of saving the Indians, are not always in the best position to complete. They themselves, or some of their clear-sighted "chiefs", like Janet McDonald who lives in the Rocky Mountains near Seattle in Washington State, admit that "alcohol and jealousy are the two scourges of our peoples".

The Indians are divided, not only on tribal lines, but between "traditionalists" and "progressives". One of the traditionalists' opposition's only forms of expression is to abstain from voting in elections to the tribal councils which are the official negotiating partners of the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington. This bureau does much to set up business relations between the big mining companies and council members who negotiate the financial terms on which mining is allowed on their territory.

They are in a relatively weak bargaining position and the royalties they receive are low. The Hopi Council, for instance, derives nine millions of its revenues from mining but the state of Arizona collects much larger sums for the energy generated by the power stations on its territory than those received by the Navajo and Hopi from the production of fuels.

At all events, the new traditionalist Indian leaders who are beginning to make themselves heard do not rely on reminiscences over such matters to make their case. It is their contention that no royalties, even at a much higher level, can compensate for the loss of control of the land on which other generations, it is hoped, will have to live.

Thirty-five million tons of radioactive waste have been deposited in the Colorado river basin. Already several disasters have resulted in some

of this waste finding its way directly into the river. Fourteen thousand tons of solid waste were lost in a flood at Green River in Utah and 400 million litres of radioactive water when a dam burst near Churchrock in New Mexico. Every year tons of radioactive water are pumped out of the mines in New Mexico and poured into the River Colorado after rudimentary treatment.

Further downstream this river provides the water used to irrigate the big fruit and vegetable farms in Imperial Valley in California and Yuma in Arizona. The authorities maintain that the water is perfectly safe. But is it not likely that this "nuclear farming", as its detractors call it, will cause delayed effects which could be taken very seriously?

To put it in more immediate terms, are the tomatoes and strawberries which we will be getting in Europe this winter already contaminated?

Thousands of tons of water are being drawn from the subsoil of the Colorado Plateau for use in the mines. These are millennial reserves which will never be replaced and water is a most precious commodity in this area. Without attempting any return to nature, is it not becoming urgent at least to pay serious attention to the balance of nature in the world we inhabit?

If the nations of the world do not change their policies soon, life for most people in the world will be harder and more hazardous in the year 2000 than it is today. The land on which food is grown will become less productive in many areas. Desertification is not the only serious problem in the world, the size of the state of Maine every year.

"Forests are being destroyed at the rate of 18 million to 20 million hectares (half the area

of California every year, so that the question is not worth asking? In Navajo country there is an open-cast mine four kilometres from a school and nine from a church, in a village where one day a dam burst at 7 cm. It was not until midday that the villagers learnt—from the radio—that had caused the noise they had heard: no other warning had been given.

A notice was put up by the responsible authority at the edge of the new stretch of water released by the broken dam, with the legend: "Warning, all use of water from this river is discouraged by the NMED". No indication of the nature of the pollution. Morever, animals do not read and they did drink the water.

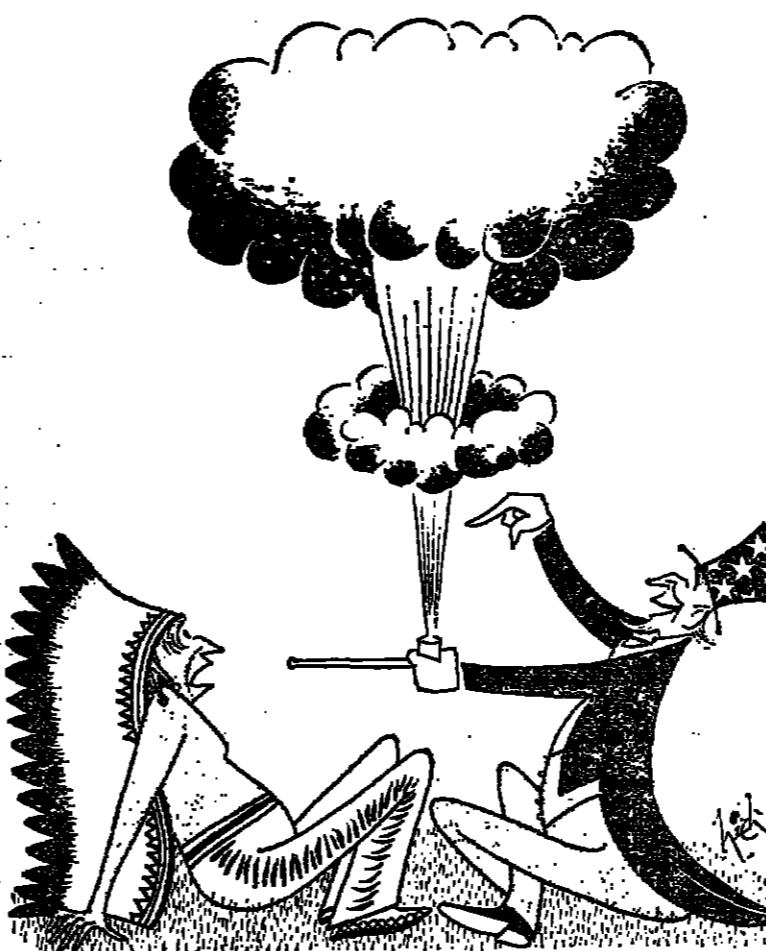
One has scruples about implicating the mining companies, but can it seriously be claimed that minimum safety standards are maintained when the oil companies in many mines are barely adequate? The uranium rush is on, with the oil companies to the fore, having rightly judged that it offers alternative sources of profits. In this rather sparsely populated region it is possible to carry on practices which would be out of the question in more densely populated areas, such as that around Three Mile Island, which is still the subject of hot debate.

In comparison, the "sacred lands" of the Indians seem to belong to a different world. It is not by chance that so many extraction units or workmen claimed to be "the biggest in the world" are to be found there; nobody was in a position to demand that they be kept down to a smaller scale.

Today, however, despite their differences, the Indians have formed the Council of Energy Resource Tribes. Does this, as some people imagine, mark the beginning of a sort of "American Oscar"? Will a new "dialogue of the deaf" succeed the old?

But the survival of mankind is not a question of price. The ultimate sacrifice of the North American Indians, whether offered up to the American nation for no gain or at the cost of a heavy tribute to the golden calf, could well mean the same fate for us.

Jacqueline Grapin



Rising Stars

A youthful chairman who is facing unpalatable facts



As Mrs Thatcher's Government pushes through its hard monetary policies against an international background of deepening recession, the effect on the British corporate sector is becoming plain. Profitability is falling, balance sheets are weakening and the number of bankruptcies is increasing. In many cases, often in strategic areas of the industrial economy, the case for retrenchment is now overwhelming.

At Courtaulds, the largest textile manufacturer in Britain, a sense of realism emerged early, partly because the textile business has been used to recessionary or near-recessionary conditions for at least 10 years, and partly because Courtaulds' board elected a new chairman at the beginning of this year who was determined to face the facts, however unpalatable.

Mr Christopher Hogg, who now heads Courtaulds, 44, unusually young in Britain to be chairman of a major manufacturing company. But his qualifications—Oxford, Harvard, merchant banking and a spell with the 1964 Labour Government's experimental Industrial Reorganization Corporation before joining Courtaulds as a line manager in 1968—would rank as good enough anywhere in the world.

The reality, as he sees it, is that the textiles side of Courtaulds (in its present form, at any rate, where it still relies for three-fifths of its business on textiles) is fighting for survival. He was prepared publicly, in his first statement to shareholders, to pose the question of whether it was possible for the company to remain as a large-scale textile producer.

At present with the rigours of the trade recession at their most severe, the answer is still in the affirmative, though to try to achieve this, Mr Hogg is having to make a number of critical assumptions and equally difficult decisions.

"I think that what my appointment catalysed", he says, "was that we had to identify and extend what we were doing. We had to grasp all sorts of realities, and we had to recognize that in the end it would be better if we did so quickly and firmly. It would certainly be to the interest of

back to some base from which you stand a good chance of earning proper profit."

As he sees it, the situation is one which everyone in the company has to face. For management Mr Hogg saw that the depressing experience of fighting a long, defensive rear-guard battle, which has been the case so many of the group's textile operations for many years, was wholly debilitating. For unions the message—for which there has been a refreshing acceptance—is that they had a totally common interest in tackling Courtaulds' difficulties which, in any case, are not far removed from the situation facing almost every major textile producer in developed countries.

Mr Hogg's clinical prognosis, which could well be applied to many British manufacturing companies, is that "somehow we have got to raise productivity to stave off an exchange rate that is going to be permanently high as a result of North Sea oil".

This attitude emerges again in his stance on the vexed issue of protection for the textile sector. "The Government can never give the industry enough for its comfort, so the industry will always be uncomfortable."

So, as someone who once "deeply resented" subsidized competition from textile industries in developing countries (more recently it is American producers with the benefit of cheaper input costs who have caused European producers serious problems) Mr Hogg has shifted his ground on this issue.

As he now sees it the textile industry is one of the first manufacturing industries which developing countries turn on any scale. It is inevitable that there will be world overcapacity and strong pressure on the textile industries in developed countries. Precisely because the need of developing countries to develop is so great, their textile industries are often supported all round in a way which is regarded as "unfair" by those in developed countries who have to compete with them.

"It is difficult", says Mr Hogg, "particularly at times like the present, not to feel resentful, even bitter, about the 'unfairness'. But one must be realistic and recognize that there are strong political reasons for developing countries growing and also that the policies which would protect the textile industries in developed countries could have a rebound effect on other exporting industries in those countries which would be even more serious than the difficulties of the textile industries themselves."

The answer is for companies like us to try to move towards a situation where the only fibre/fabric/garment businesses we retain are those which we stand a fair chance of defending against the worst that can face us by way of international competition—whether that competition is "fair" or not. To get to this point will require much change but it must be done. The less we have to rely on protection or government help, however much we may think we deserve it, the more secure our business will be."

Some seven million people are still employed in British manufacturing, Mr Hogg points out, and whether or not the process of deindustrialization continues, the number is still sufficiently large to warrant serious interest.

Certainly, he as someone who recognized that far too few people capable of running large industrial companies were willing actually to go into industry, decided to leave the financial sector on the view that it was "simply not good enough to sit on the sidelines and throw criticism at manufacturing. Some people have got to get in there and do something".

Andrew Goodrick-Clarke

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The German Marshall Fund of the United States, a private non-profit-making American foundation, will award bursaries to candidates whose research projects aim to promote a better understanding of the contemporary problems common to industrial societies.

The surveys, which should be placed within the context of the United States and at least one European country, must be centred on a comparative analysis of the political, economic and social aspects of national issues, and candidates should as a rule be social science graduates involved in research.

Draft theses cannot be accepted. Closing date for submitting projects is 30th November, 1980. Any requests for further information and forms should be addressed to the office of the Foundation in Paris:

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EUROPA REPORTS
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Vast move to change course of international finance bodies

Developing nations seek overhaul of IMF and World Bank

In the monetary history of this decade, which promises to produce as many upheavals as the 1970s, Arusha, a small and pleasant Tanzanian town which is an important tourist centre being near the game reserves and the magnificent Ngorongoro crater, may well prove to have played a major role.

Two international conferences have been held there this year. The first of these, in March, was entirely official, a meeting of the Group of 77 (the Third World pressure group to which 120 countries now belong) during which it was decided unanimously to recognize the PLO officially.

This resolution could not fail to have an impact on the preparations for the general assembly of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which was chaired this year by Mr Amin Jamal, the Tanzanian Minister of Finance. In his level-headed way he is a strong supporter of giving the Third World countries greater influence over these two institutions (and it is known that the issue of the admission of the PLO with observer status was regarded as a test case).

The second conference, which was held in late June and early July, was of a quite different nature (although concerned with similar matters, since it was organized by private associations, such as the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in Uppsala and the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, which actively support Third World arguments).

The document which emerged from this conference, somewhat pompously entitled the *Arusha Initiative*, attracted wide media coverage. It was thus entirely successful in achieving its intended purpose, which was to orchestrate a vast political, diplomatic and intellectual movement with no less aim than to investigate a fundamental overhaul of the running of the international financial institutions, where Western and especially American influence is omnipresent.

It remains to be seen whether or not the approach outlined for bringing about such a wide-ranging reappraisal is self-contradictory, with inconsistencies between the methods recommended and the aims pursued. At all events it is almost certain that this is going to be one of the big



issues to be played out on the international stage during the dissociated from the United Nations.

The origins and historical role of the IMF explain why one of its most ingrained instincts is to stay away from what is called politics. The IMF and the World Bank were originally conceived as specialized agencies of the United Nations, but when they effect-

ively came into being they were

a body of rules (the charter)

which owe their objectivity to the fact that in theory they avoid all political criteria.

Similarly, the Gatt was given the role of promoting free trade around the world by applying a number of principles (no discrimination, reciprocity and so on), the purpose of which is to keep politics out of trade.

Bangladesh is a typical undeveloped country. Here workers plant rice seedlings in a paddyfield.

In the twentieth century, distinctions of this type are much less clear cut than they once were, but since the real or supposed liberalism of the West is a constant topic of discussion, it is important to remember that more or less liberal order cannot prevail in theory or in practice unless there is at the same time recognition, not only de jure but de facto (in the running of institutions, for instance), of the existence of objective principles. (The Gatt for example, is justified on the basis of the economic reasoning according to which free trade is the means by which the best distribution of available resources can be achieved.)

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Arusha Initiative

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THE TIMES

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VICTORY FOR THE GERMAN CENTRE

If the Christian Democrats had won the West German election on Sunday, their policies would not have been quite as different from those of the present coalition as their enemies feared and, their friends hoped. In particular any British Tories who yearned for Herr Strauss, would probably have been disappointed. Herr Strauss is not a German Mrs Thatcher. He is not as ideological in economic affairs, and he would not have changed more than the emphasis in West Germany's foreign policy.

He would have continued the eastern policy, though somewhat through clenched teeth, and he would not have been the uncritical Atlanticist he pretended to be in the election campaign. He is as unhappy as Herr Schmidt with the Americans, and there is far more Gaullism in his background and present thinking that there is in Herr Schmidt's. Indeed there is very little to justify the suspicion sometimes encountered in London that Britain is somehow disadvantaged in Europe by a Franco-German front. Britain's weakness in Europe is entirely of her own making and is regretted as much by Herr Schmidt as by President Giscard d'Estaing.

Hence the victory of Herr Schmidt's coalition is welcome not because it provides a sharp contrast to the alternative, but because it offers stability, continuity and experience through a period which is certain to be difficult. Herr Strauss was regarded by the majority of West German voters as too unattractive, unpredictable and divisive to be chosen. At the same time, Herr Schmidt's party did not earn any significant

increase in its votes. The result was a victory for the centre.

This means not just a victory for the small Free Democratic Party which was the only party to make significant gains, but also for the broad proposition that each of the big parties must resist the pull from its outer wing if it is to win votes. The Free Democrats have a far smaller proportion of regular voters than do the larger parties. They rely on the floating centre. In the previous two elections they had drawn these floating votes mainly from Social Democrats who wanted from Christian Democrats who could not bring themselves to support Herr Strauss.

Of course, their power is totally out of proportion to their numerical support. With only 10.6 per cent of the vote they can make or break the government and, within reason, dictate their own terms for the programme of the coalition. But even in a system of direct representation it is the floating voters who mostly decide the result. The disadvantage is that they then swing the entire balance of power to one side or the other.

In West Germany's system they are more truly represented by a Centrist Party which then also enjoys the power to prevent wide swings of the pendulum. This power could be dangerous if the Free Democrats were an irresponsible party, but they are not, because they know that if they were they would get fewer votes or find the big parties joining forces against them. They maintain their position because they can provide their

AFTER BLACKPOOL, BRIGHTON

Mrs Thatcher has every reason to be thankful that one of the traditions of British politics is for the Conservative conference to follow the Labour gathering. Had it been otherwise, had Brighton this week preceded the shambles of Blackpool, the Conservative leadership might well have been considerably embarrassed. The National Opinion Poll yesterday gave Labour a lead of eleven per cent, but more serious for the Government than that was the fact that a majority of those questioned now regard unemployment as the most important issue facing the country.

This is damaging for the Government partly because the Conservatives are not widely believed to be the party best fitted to deal with this particular problem—a poll by Gallup yesterday found 75 per cent disapproving of ministers' handling of the employment issue—and partly because the Government's whole economic strategy is based on the judgment—which we would share—that inflation is the greater threat and that it must be squeezed out of the economy even at the cost of higher unemployment for a time.

The fear that the Government may not be successful in its economic policy will be the great underlying anxiety at Brighton this week. The policy is attacked from two angles. The social and

industrial cost is said to be too high even if it ultimately achieves its objective. The effects of high interest rates, high unemployment, welfare and education spending cuts, and the increase in company bankruptcies are all adduced as supporting evidence for this argument. There is also the doubt which is now heard more frequently as to whether the policy will ever achieve its economic purpose.

It will be interesting to see how many of these anxieties come to the surface at Brighton. Will there be a searching assessment? Or will the Tory business managers once again display their customary skill in mystifying criticism? But while the answer to that question will be interesting, it will now matter less because of what happened to Labour at Blackpool last week. That catastrophe has removed the immediate political pressure on the Government. After watching that occasion, few people will suppose that the present administration is plunging headlong to defeat.

By comparison with the Shadow Cabinet at Blackpool, Cabinet ministers at Brighton will look serenely in control of themselves and even of events. Yet part of that impression may be an illusion. Ministers may reasonably feel more confident

AN ELECTORAL THREAT TO PRESIDENT EANES

In returning the government of Senhor Sá Carneiro with an increased majority, the Portuguese voters have given a clear endorsement of his policy of political and economic reform. It was only by a quirk of the constitution that new election had to be held so soon, ten months after the last one, but the intervening period has enabled the government to make a start on its programme; and the election campaign was a remarkably vigorous one, in which the opposition parties did everything they could, not only to criticize the policies of the Democratic Alliance, the government coalition, but to attack Senhor Sá Carneiro personally. The upshot was a victory for the government, a clear setback for the Communists, and a disappointment for the Socialists, who were virtually able to maintain their position but not to recover the losses they suffered last year.

The result was further evidence of the country's desire to turn its back on the leftist policies followed in the aftermath of the 1974 revolution, and particularly those of the far left. The Democratic Alliance, a centre-right grouping, is com-

mitted to reversing many of the decisions of that period—the nationalization of banking, insurance and industry; for instance, and the collectivization of land—and in general to reducing the role of the state in the economy. Since taking office it has speeded up the process of handing back land that was taken over to its former owners and paid compensation for nationalized assets. It has lowered taxes and succeeded in reducing the rate of inflation.

It has not been free, however, to carry out the full range of its programme, because of opposition from President Eanes and the Council of the Revolution, based on the constitution. The constitution, which came into effect in 1976, specifically commits Portugal to a socialist course, and President Eanes, backed by some of the more leftist army officers, has been able to use it to justify vetoing some government legislation. This has led to bad blood between Senhor Sá Carneiro and the President, and to a determined campaign by Senhor Sá Carneiro not only to revise the constitution but to unseat President Eanes in the Presidential election in December.

Our building heritage

From the Chairman of the Historic Buildings Committee, Greater London Council.

There is a belief cause for concern about the Government's policies for historic buildings. In London alone various decisions taken recently seem to me to be inconsistent.

In one week, the minister accepted the destruction of the symmetry of the National History Museum (Grade 1) but refused to permit a "comparatively" modest office within the mutilated booking hall of St Pancras station.

More recently, no emergency action was taken to prevent the centre of the Picadilly buildings (Grade 1 or Grade 2), such as the Jubilee Hall in Covent Garden, being demolished.

The Jubilee Hall in Covent Garden was only "spot" listed as the result of public pressure, not on grounds of architectural importance, but because the community wanted it as a sports hall, while there appears to be no such response for a whole block of eighteenth-century listed houses including Flaxman's House in Greenwell Street, blighted by Westminster City Council's plan to redevelop the site.

Several important country houses (Grade 1 or Grade 2), such as Houghton Hall, Southgate, Frogmore, and Swanley in Hertfordshire, are in serious danger because the Government, the National Trust, and the National Heritage Memorial Fund seem to show much concern.

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The Jubilee Hall in Covent

Closed shop
debate
still not over,
page 17

ACQUES
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LAING

make ideas take shape

Stock Markets

FT Ind 4244 up 5.1

FT Gilt 71.07 up 0.2

Sterling

\$2,380 up 90 pts

Index 75.8 unchanged

Dollar

Index 83.2 down 0.2

DM 1,7990 down 115 pts

Gold

\$678.50 up \$15

Money

3 month sterling 134.16

3 month Euro-S 134.12

6 month Euro-S 134.12

10 month Euro-S 134.12

15 month Euro-S 134.12

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Unions call strike over Fiat

The Italian trade union leadership in Rome announced a 24-hour strike on Friday against Fiat as three month lay-offs, took effect for 23,000 workers in the Turin based car manufacturer.

Leaders of the three big confederations—CGIL, CISL and UIL—in a statement accused Fiat of provoking "grave social lacerations" by its action. The company refused to guarantee that the suspended men would return to work which, the statement claimed, was equivalent to their dismissal.

This "attack on the workers" and the trade union movement "was an offence grave because thousands of jobs elsewhere were at stake, particularly in chemical companies, in areas such as Naples and Calabria, and in telecommunications and fibres.

Friday's strike will be a four-hour stoppage except in public services, where it will last one hour.

Japanese-Dutch talks

Japanese and Dutch businessmen are discussing cooperation in industrial projects in third countries. Mr K. Herman Beyen, the Netherlands economics minister revealed in Tokyo. The discussions are between the Japan Machinery Exporters Association and the Dutch Association of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Industries.

Swiss deficit

The Swiss parliament has accepted a budgeted federal deficit for 1981 of 1.177m Swiss francs (about £304m) which would be slightly smaller than the 1.290m-franc deficit budget for 1980, but 220m francs more than the long-term financial plan for 1981-1983.

Motorcycle venture

Piaggio, which with its subsidiary Gilera is Europe's biggest producer of motorcycles, has signed an agreement with Cyclone Peugeot of France to develop engines of 125 and 50 cubic centimetres, to be mounted on frames produced and sold independently by the two groups.

Wall Street optimistic as money supply figures show substantial fall

Living with high US interest rates

Hopes are rising on Wall Street that American interest rates have reached their peak for the time being, and will either hold at current levels, or even fall slightly, in coming weeks.

The release of new money supply figures, showing a substantial fall in the money stock, served to boost share prices. The Federal Reserve Board underscored its determination to keep a tight rein on credit by draining cash when the rate for Federal funds fell to just over 11 per cent.

There appears to be little doubt among Wall Street brokers and economists that American interest rates are going to remain at high levels well into next year.

Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates said in a new report that this factor, plus the prospect of a United States current account payments sur-

plus, will ensure a strong dollar at least until late 1981.

Wharton's quarterly forecasts enjoy respect in the markets and they are purchased by scores of large companies. The latest set of Wharton predictions fall closely into line with what most American economists appear to be forecasting for 1981.

High rates of interest are seen because government borrowing is set to continue at a strong annual rate of some \$60,000m; because inflation will remain high for the first half of 1981; and because gradual economic recovery will add upward pressure on rates. The most important factor, Wharton asserted, would be the Fed's determined aim to control the money supply.

"We are not yet in the recovery," the forecasters stated, adding that a slow recovery is expected to get under way early in 1981 because of a \$27,000m

inflow of capital from abroad.

The Wharton detailed forecasts point to a healthier American economy emerging late next year. Real economic growth of well over 4 per cent is seen for the period from mid-1981 to mid-1982.

Inflation, as measured by the gap deflator, will amount to an annual rate of over 10 per cent in the first quarter of next year, but then slowly drift down to a rate of just over 7 per cent by the second quarter of 1982.

Both new car sales and new housing starts are likely to be

very sluggish in coming months and only move back towards the sort of high levels seen last year by the middle of 1982.

The timing and size of the tax cuts will greatly influence non-residential investment outlays, although Wharton is quite optimistic about business fixed investment levels late next year.

The depressed United States economy would dampen world trade, Wharton said. World trade growth might be just 3 per cent next year, and then pick up slowly to climb above 4 per cent.

The weak United States recovery will also mean higher American unemployment next year. Wharton predicted that the average United States jobless rate would rise from the 1980 level of 7.5 per cent to almost 8.2 per cent in 1981 and then fall slightly in 1982.

Frank Vogl
in Washington

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Advice to small firms

From Mr Ansel Z. Harris

Sir, Britain's newest growth industry, advice to small firms, is burgeoning. As an adviser, I seconded a few months ago to the Wandsworth Business Resource Service, the private sector, I would like to participate in, albeit with the limited experience to date, the debate provoked by Patricia Tisdall's article "Home Truths about small business" in *The Times* of October 1.

Whilst most of her article mainly gives the background to the growth of this industry, she rightly stresses one of the home truths about small businesses, namely the help of big companies as customers and authorities can give by paying their bills on time, and implicitly accelerating grant procedures. But it should be stressed that the husbanding of financial resources is only one of their problems. Finance does not solve all their problems.

Inevitably, small businesses have very close links with local authorities. In recent years, via such legislation as the Inner Urban Areas Act, 1978, via such opinion-forming reports as the Bolton Committee, 1977, the Wilson Committee, 1979, local authorities have been drawn into active participation

in or cooperation with business enterprise and in creating the climate in which new and small businesses can flourish. But they are unskilled and inexperienced in this and their offices untrained in it.

The chief executives must make themselves responsible to see that this new activity gets off the ground. They should not delegate and split this responsibility between several departments. But more than this, staff need to be motivated, directed, briefed, to make it what you will in their new role so that the dialogue with the new and small businesses can be more direct and productive, with help more positively given. In this way, these businesses will flourish, employment in these areas will grow (and the rate of income increase). The responsibility rests with the chief executive and his directors to ensure that the message gets through. If it does not, as Patricia Tisdall puts it, "the inevitable consequence will be large-scale disillusionment."

ANSEL Z. HARRIS
Adviser to the Wandsworth Business Resource Service, 15, Lichfield Road, Kew Gardens, Surrey, TW9 3JR.
October 3.

Selling spare part for cars

From Mr Michael Dobbs
Sir, I read in *The Times* on September 29 that the of Fair Trading is concerned by the cost of service or of replacement parts.

All vehicle manufacturers present by contract authorized dealers from replacement parts which are not distributed through their parts operations.

The authorized dealers then put pressure on vehicle manufacturers, independent of manufacturing parts for sale through dependent garages. The by requiring the vehicle manufacturers to assert the "copyright" in their drawings in the car.

The end result of this is that if successful, the elimination of competitor spare parts for cars, reservation to foreign manufacturers of a captive market for replacement vehicles.

This will take the market even more firmly into the hands of the replacement parts for their cars will be to them. They will be lower, the prices of vehicles even further, resulting in increased production of the British manufacturer's share of the market for British Leyland.

Thus, the British management by assuring there is an "artistic copy" of the engineering drawings and parts are contributing one thing they do not practice when they reach 15 for their vehicles.

M. DOBBS
3 Sandpit Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 4LP.

Post Office efficiency

From Mr W. de Haas

Sir, We have just received our quarterly telex account from the Post Office and are staggered to find a 72 per cent increase in the rental charge for the machine. The previous rental was £148 per quarter and this figure has now been increased to £225 per quarter.

Having queried the amount of the increase with the Post Office, we were told that it was in accordance with a directive received direct from the Government. No private firm could possibly justify such an increase.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Setting the scene for an MLR cut

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cars

The Government may be tempted to bow gracefully to widespread demands for lower interest rates and at the same time preserve its tough monetary stance. Together with the banking figures coming out this afternoon, London clearing banks should be indicating a sharp fall in loan demand from the private sector, a precondition to a drop in MLR.

The market certainly is looking for a slow-down in the growth of money supply. This time again the figures for September will be distorted by money coming back into the system after the ending of the corset controls but the underlying trend for the growth of M3 is expected to be lower. The unadjusted figures could show a M3 growth of 1.2 per cent and perhaps less than 1 per cent stripping out the effects of re-inflation. On an annual September-to-September basis this would still indicate M3 growing at an unhealthy 18 per cent but at least a corner may have been turned.

At the same time with United States interest rates edging down after the latest encouraging money supply figures, the feeling in London is that the recent burst in United States rates may have ended. If so then foreign money may once again flow into London to take advantage of high rates and the capital gain potential.

Yesterday, this was considered a strong enough possibility to encourage the gilt market to rise in relatively modest trade, with long gilts putting on around 1 point. The Government Broker felt able for the first time since mid-September to sell around £200m of the £1,000m Exchequer 12 per cent 1988 rat stock.

The gilt market also saw encouraging news in the wholesale prices figures. These indicate that inflation is on the way down, whether one looks at the favourable six months figures which on an annual basis show inflation at 11 per cent or on the year-to-year figure which show a less flattering 12 per cent.

The scene thus seems set for a lower MLR. Whether it will happen right now, must, however, remain a political decision.

It might look too much like a manoeuvre if it took place during the week of the Conservative Party's conference, while today's banking figures will not include quarterly interest payments and charges for three of the clearers, which will show up in the October figures.

Minet Holdings

Under pressure

Hopes that this would be a year of consolidation for insurance brokers after the trying conditions of 1979 are proving a little premature. Recent half-year results from Willis, Faber, Sedgwick and Alexander Howden have been just about satisfactory but all appear to be putting little faith in the second half with few signs of an end to the pressure on worldwide premium rates and sterling's strength cutting back whatever overseas' growth there is and pushing up the expense ratio.

Minet, which yesterday announced a drop in pre-tax profits from £4.66m to £3.97m, is not altogether representative of other brokers given its higher overseas content, both from its own subsidiaries and the foreign content of its United Kingdom companies, and its specialization in professional indemnity insurance in the United States where rates have been under exceptionally heavy pressure.

If Minet's overall performance was only a shade worse than most expectations, the make-up of those profits was more of a surprise.

Broking profits almost halved to £1.4m as expenses continued to rise, albeit at a lower pace than last year—and brokerage income eased back. The Lloyd's underwriting side has been unexpectedly strong with operating profits rising from £1.76m to £2.7m thanks to the good commissions in the 1977 account.

Even so, with the group taking a noticeably less bullish line than earlier this year, most analysts reckon the group will do well to match last year's £8.5m.

Selling at almost 13 times this year's earnings and yielding 5.6 per cent after yesterday's 5p gain to 115p, the shares are clearly overvalued on trading grounds. But Minet's gearing to an upturn in broking conditions is above average while the United States Corroon & Black's 20 per cent stake adds speculative spice even though its recent poor results suggests that it does not have the muscle for a full takeover.

Freemans (SW9)

Worse to come

The sharp setback at Freemans, the agency mail order house with around a tenth of the market, with pretax profits down from £7.8m to £5.1m in the opening half, indicate not that it is the odd-man-out, but that the whole industry is reeling before recession. So hopes of Empire Stores reporting interim pretax profits of £2.5m against £3.5m tomorrow are probably dashed, with most analysts now happy to see around £2.2m.

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and the clothing slump. Clothing accounts for half mail order business, and Freemans is at the fashion end which has been the hardest hit.

Catalogues effectively freeze prices for up to nine months and Freemans suffered from racketing costs and postage. Moreover, the catalogue came on to the market at a time when the High Street competition was ravaging prices.

Compounding its troubles, Freemans found borrowings getting back to normal after an abnormally light interest charge



Mr. Anthony Rampton, chairman of Freemans.

of £169,000 in the first half last year with higher stocks this time round, interest charges jumped to £1m, while tax also rose sharply from £1.55m to £2m thanks to a big fall in stock relief, and net profits more than halved to £3.05m.

For the full year pretax profits may be no more than £5m against £15.5m, and Freemans report that business is getting worse. The shares fell 10p to 106p, a low for the year, but even so the yield is still not much more than 4 per cent. When fashion recovers Freemans' advanced techniques should pay off, but for the time being the shares are only for the patient.

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FINANCIAL NEWS

Campari slips below £1m for year, but payout lifted

By Michael Clark

Increased borrowings and the recession have dented profits of a Campari International, the camping leisure wear and inflatable boats group.

Full-year figures to May 31 show a trading profit virtually unchanged at £7.2m net turnover, up from £18m to £20.2m. But a pre-tax profit has dropped from £1.5m to £0.5m, after increased interest charges of £1.4m against £0.8m.

The increase in the gross final dividend from 2.7p to 3p, making a total of 5.7p, helped to push the shares 50 pence to 53p yesterday, after an initial fall of 4p.

Looking at the higher level of borrowings, which rose by £1m last year to £9.5m, or roughly 10 per cent of shareholders' funds, Mr Henry Lipton, newly appointed chairman, remains unworried. The group has already ruled out a rights issue and Mr Lipton

hoped the group would be able to reduce borrowings by increasing sales at home and abroad. Last year volume sales were "only a negligible increase".

For this year, Mr Lipton admitted that United Kingdom turnover figures were not encouraging, although both the current and forward order positions showed market improvements. He was looking to the current year with considerable optimism, he said.

The only bright spot in last year's performance came from Campari's leisure operations, which continued to do further, despite a strike from Sweden, where the one-month industrial strike was felt.

Further expansion in Europe is planned, with Austria, Switzerland and Spain next on the list.

Rossing optimistic over mine

Rossing Uranium, of which Britain's Rio Tinto-Zinc is the largest shareholder, remains confident about the future of its giant mine in Namibia in spite of accusations that it is plundering it on a massive scale.

"We assume business will continue as usual," Mr Clive Algar, a Rossing spokesman, forecast when asked about the prospects for the mine once the South African-administered territory is independent.

Rossing, the world's largest uranium mine, produces about 15.6 per cent of the non-Communist world's uranium production, equivalent to about half of Britain's annual oil consumption, yet total secrecy still surrounds the destination of its output.

The Rossing operation, which reached full production in 1979, has aroused a storm of protest in the United Nations and other international forums on the grounds that South Africa holds the territory illegally.

Rossing officials say the mine has another 24 years of profitably production. But in future, it will depend very much on the protracted negotiations between South Africa and Herr Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Bank Base Rates

ABN - Bank	16%
Barclays	16%
BCCI	16%
Consolidated Crt	16%
C. Hoare & Co	16%
Lloyds Bank	16%
Midland Bank	16%
Nat Westminster	16%
TSB	16%
Williams and Glyn's	16%

7 day deposit 15% or 16% over £50,000 16% over

£50,000 15% over

British Syphons sees fall in second half

By Rosemary Unsworth

British Syphon Industries has produced better than expected results in the first half. But they are accompanied by the warning that the recession has started to bite at this industrial engineering, re-manufacturing, distribution group and second-half figures will be sharply down.

Pre-tax profits rose by 50 per cent from £55.000 to £80.000, while turnover increased by 32 per cent from £12.6m to £16.6m in the six months to June 30, 1980. Much of the sales improvement was from volume gains. The group will probably make price increases in the second half.

Mr James Eardley, the chairman, also pointed out that about 20 per cent of the pre-tax figure came from an exceptional concentration in demand by the principal customers of the Rossing operation, which reached full production in 1979.

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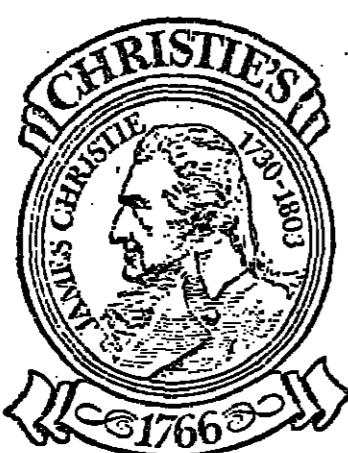
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Tuesday 10 October at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
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Wednesday 11 October at 10.30 a.m.
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Thursday 19 October at 10.30 a.m.
CLOTHES, WATCHES, MUSICAL BOXES
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Wednesday 25 October at 10.30 a.m.
CLOTHES, WATCHES, MUSICAL BOXES
AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS

Thursday 26 October at 10.30 a.m.
CLOTHES, WATCHES, MUSICAL BOXES
AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS

Friday 27 October at 10.30 a.m.
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Wednesday 25 October at 1

PERSONAL CHOICE



Frank Benge (James Grout) gives away the blushing bride, Molly (Patsy Palmer), in tonight's final episode of *Born and Bred* (ITV, 9.00).

• Mentioned in *Dispatches* (BBC 2 7.55) is a profile of Tim Page, a photographer who specializes in war scenes and a Vietnam legend. He first went to Vietnam when he was twenty, just three years after he left his Orpington, Kent, home and since that first visit has been wounded four times, the last time being lodged DOA (dead on arrival) when he was brought to hospital. He is now living in Los Angeles and works as a staff photographer for a French-based picture agency and in this profile we follow him or a recent peaceful photographic assignment to deepest Dorset where he photographed a camp for the *Boat People*. We also see him lecturing at the ICA on Vietnam, and back at his old home in Orpington, Michael Herr who first told the story of Page in his best-selling book about Vietnam, *Dispatches*, says that Tim Page, to get the most dramatic picture, would go to places that very few photographers would dare to go. Not only has his fearlessness gained him universal recognition for his work but he was asked to be the visual adviser in the major Vietnam war film *Apocalypse Now*. A highly viewable programme about a brave and talented man.

• *Man Alive's* The Old Can't Run Fast Enough (BBC 2 9.20) is a harrowing documentary about the plight of the elderly who seem to be the major victims of teenage and younger gangsters. Filmed in Liverpool, it features full-time volunteers who join Joe's War, a group of pensioners in the cause of aged victims of violence. Shelleys horrifying tales of brutally perpetrated by heartless young people, including just for the fun of it because most of the time they have very little money. In the programme reporter Michael Dean discovers that for every \$1 the State spends on the offenders one penny is allocated to the victims—a really startling statistic.

• A helpful programme called *In Touch* (Radio 4, 9.05pm) begins today. It is aimed at assisting the visually handicapped to cope with the everyday things that sighted people do without a second thought. This evening Hannah Wright has tips for blind cooks on different methods of boiling and Peter White gives a run-down on what is available on tape for the person who enjoys romantic fiction. If you have a blind friend or acquaintance I'm sure they would like to know about this programme so please tell them.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: STEREO: 'BLACK AND WHITE'; (REPEAT)

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am For Schools, Colleges & Heute Direkte: Understanding German and the Germans. 9.35 Out of the Past: A village at war AD 1882. 9.57 Talkabout: Who's Callin' 10.16 Look at the Head: Skyline. 10.30 The Birdman. 10.38 Geography: Rouveyre, 11.00 Showtime: Farming—11.17 Why We Work. 11.25 The Craft of the Weaver. 11.38 Geography: Routeyre, 11.00 Showtime: Farming—11.17 Why We Work. 11.25 News.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One celebrates the 25th Jubilee of the Royal Band of the RAF and talks to the musical director about the history of the Band. Also included is the regular feature Family Matters that offers advice on everyday matters. 1.45 Bagpuss 1.50 You and Me (r). 2.14 For Schools, Colleges: The Long and the Short, and the Tall. 2.30 Clossdown. 2.45 The Archers. 2.55 Nationwide. Frank Bough leads the team that brings current affairs news from the regions. 3.00 Film: The Story Girl (1965) starring Tom Tully and a young James Caan. A fairly average Red Indians versus the Cavalry encounter with screenplay by Sam Peckinpah.

3.30 Wildlife on One: Shipwreck. Narrated by David Attenborough, the series visits the wreck of an American liberty ship, the James Egan Layne, which sank just a mile off Whitesands Bay, South Devon, in 1945. We see the many different types of fish that live on this artificial reef.

4.00 News with Kenneth Kendall. 4.25 Iris: Iris Williams, the Welsh girl with the wonderful voice, gives

adventure story Chase throughout the Night. 4.45 Big Easy. 5.00 News. 5.15 Brian Clegg in today's programme of music and music. 5.05 John Craven's Newsround. World news presented intelligently for children. 5.10 Screen Test. The popular children's film quiz enters its eleventh year this afternoon. 5.15 Out of the Past: The Birdman. 5.30 Geography: Routeyre. 5.40 Showtime: Farming—11.17 Why We Work. 5.55 Nationwide. Frank Bough leads the team that brings current affairs news from the regions. 6.00 Film: The Story Girl (1965) starring Tom Tully and a young James Caan. A fairly average Red Indians versus the Cavalry encounter with screenplay by Sam Peckinpah.

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7.00 News with Kenneth Kendall. 7.25 Iris: Iris Williams, the Welsh girl with the wonderful voice, gives

BBC 2

7.05 am Open University: The Steam Locomotive—1.30 The Uses of Biochemistry. Clossdown. 7.15 9.30 Conservative Party Conference: Live coverage of the conference of Robin Day and David Dimbleby are the reporters. Further coverage at 11.25 and 2.30. 11.00 Play School: Julie Stevens reads Nick Wilson's Which Way to the Beach. The presenters are Alan Long and Stuart Golland. 11.25 Conservative Party Conference: More live coverage of the morning session. 12.30 pm Close-

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1.00 Your Business. The first of ten programmes presented by Robert Finlay on the problems of running your own small business (r). 1.25 Behind the Scenes. Beginning of a five-part series following the creation of the TV series *Secret Army*. Michael Molyneux is the narrator (r).

1.30 Crown Court: Continuing the trial of a mother accused of

abducting her daughter from her estranged husband. 2.00 Here Today. The last programme in the series. 2.30 Charlie's Angels: A famous actress is electrocuted and the police are brought in to investigate. 2.55 The Conservative Party Conference: Live coverage of the first afternoon's debates introduced by Billie Shipton. 3.15 Get It Together: The latest pop songs played by guess live. This afternoon they are John Hart, The Juniors and Shakin' Stevens. 4.45 Smith and Goody: Highly original and funny programme about a paper rabbit and a paper mouse. 4.50 10.00 Pipkins. 12.29 The Sullivans: Drama series depicting how an Australian family coped with World War Two. 5.45 News: read by Peter Sissons. 5.55 1.25 Help! Joan Shenton is back after her sterling work on the *Thames* Telephone with more

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he teach the Father do,
for what things cover he death,
and the resurrection like-
wise.' - See, John 5: 19.

BIRTHS

BILSEY—On October 4, to Eliza-
beth and Michael, a son, Emily-
nara, a brother to Nicholas.

DUNDAS—On 2nd October 1980,

to Linda and David, a daughter,

Louise, a sister to James.

RAVEN—On August 27th 1980,

in Brussels, to John and Susan,

brother to James, a son,

HOWARD—On October 1st, to

Barbara and Christopher, a son,

James, a brother to Emily.

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